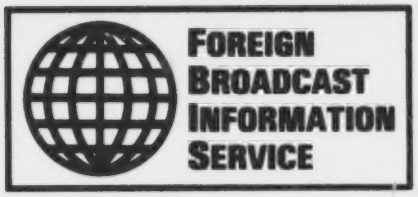

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Maghreb Follow-Up Committee Ends Meetings

LD1101192290 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] The meetings of the Follow-up Committee of the Arab Maghreb Union and of its Secretariat General ended in Tunis today. Mohamed Amamou, Tunisia's secretary of state for Maghrebian affairs, who chaired the committee's meetings, said that members of the Follow-up Committee and the Secretariat General had devoted their time during the last 3 days to examining all the points on the agenda. Furthermore, they reviewed the outcome of their meetings and their recommendations and proposals to the Maghrebian Foreign Ministers' Ministerial Council before passing them to the Maghrebian leaders, who are due to hold a summit in Tunis 21-23 January, he added.

UAE Oil Minister on Iran-Iraq Mediation

LD1001140890 Rabat MAP in English 1217 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] Marrakech, Jan. 10 (MAP)—United Arab Emirates Minister of Oil Mani' Bin Sa'id Al 'Utaybah said his country is still ready to conduct mediation between Iraq and Iran to heal the political climate in the region and reestablish peace in the Gulf.

At a news conference he held in Marrakech Monday [8 January] on the fringes of the signing of an accord on hotels management between the international company for touristic investments "Liwa" and the U.S. hotel chain "Intercontinental", Al 'Utaybah said the UAE has always advised Iran to put an end to the war being convinced that problems between neighbouring countries can never be settled by force.

The UAE official unveiled that his country's mediation between Iran and Iraq was carried on even after the end of hostilities.

As to other mediations conducted by the UAE, Al 'Utaybah cited that between Morocco and India concerning the sales of phosphoric acid and that between Syria and Iraq.

Concerning the investments made by Liwa in Morocco, Al 'Utaybah said this company wants to give example to those wishing to invest in Morocco adding that investing Arab capitals in the Arab world will undoubtedly contribute to free Arab countries' economies from constraints of the past.

He pointed out further that Liwa is ready to invest in any Arab country guaranteeing the same advantages as those granted by Morocco.

Palestinian Affairs

Salah Khalaf Urges 'United Stand' Regarding U.S.

JN1101181690 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Fatah Central Committee member brother Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] has urged Arab states to take a united stand on the U.S. absolute bias toward Israel, and to side with justice. He cited a call by United Arab Emirates' President Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan for the United States to cease its total bias toward Israel.

In a statement to the Abu Dhabi newspaper AL-ITTIHAD published today, Abu Iyad said a united Arab posture in dealing with the United States would strengthen the hand of the PLO in the dialogue with the Americans and European countries as well as consolidating the valiant intifadah. In order for the intifadah to keep going, it must be helped, he added.

'Arafat Welcomes Soviet Move on PLO Representation

LD1201100990 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] WAFA reports that the Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, expressed yesterday his satisfaction with the Soviet decision to raise the PLO representation in Moscow to embassy level.

WAFA points out that 'Arafat's welcoming of this news was expressed during his meeting yesterday with the Soviet ambassador to Tunisia who conveyed to 'Arafat a message from the Soviet leadership concerning the decision to raise the PLO representation to embassy level, as was announced yesterday [as heard] in Moscow.

Qaddumi Holds Talks With Jordan's Al-Qasim

JN1101182690 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Brother Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Political Department, met in Amman today with brother Marwan al-Qasim, Jordan's deputy prime minister and foreign minister. They talked about Palestinian developments and efforts to bring peace to the region.

A Jordanian Foreign Ministry spokesman said al-Qasim and Qaddumi reaffirmed their rejection of terrorist Zionist Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's elections proposal as a tactic to outflank and scuttle the initifadah. Brothers al-Qasim and Qaddumi stressed that the proposed international peace conference, with the participation of all parties concerned—including the PLO—is the proper instrument for working out a fair and lasting Middle East settlement that would assure legitimate Palestinian rights and the establishment of a Palestinian state on national Palestinian soil.

Fatah's Khalid Al-Hasan Interviewed

PM1001105690 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Jan 90 p 3

[Interview with Fatah Central Committee Member Khalid al-Hasan by Muhammad Sadiq in Washington; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Sadiq] You have been in Washington for a whole month now. Have you contacted U.S. officials or have they contacted you?

[Al-Hasan] No, they have not contacted me, and I have not contacted them.

[Sadiq] Contacts and consultations are going on in preparation for the tripartite meeting of the U.S., Egyptian, and Israeli foreign ministers. Are you playing any part in that?

[Al-Hasan] My presence in Washington has nothing to do with the contacts and preparations for the tripartite meeting.

[Sadiq] Surely you are informed about the contacts, you must have heard about them.

[Al-Hasan] There is nothing new to talk about.

[Sadiq] Anyway, can the problem of Israel's rejection of any direct PLO role in the peace process at this stage be overcome, especially in relation to formation of the Palestinian delegation to the dialogue with Israel?

[Al-Hasan] That is a U.S., not a Palestinian, responsibility, because to us forfeiting representation means forfeiting independence, which means forfeiting our very existence. That is why the issue of representation is crucial and essential as far as we are concerned. The PLO is prepared to be tactful in this connection but not on essentials. So, it is a U.S. responsibility vis-a-vis Israel.

[Sadiq] Does Egypt have a part to play?

[Al-Hasan] The United States is the side capable of putting pressure on Israel. Egypt coordinates with us—and may God reward it for its good efforts—but Egypt will never be a substitute for us when it comes to representation and attendance. They coordinate with us in an attempt to achieve what Baker proposed, which is a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue.

[Sadiq] Will you let Egypt act on your behalf in naming the members of the Palestinian delegation to the dialogue with Israel?

[Al-Hasan] Egypt respects the independence of Palestinian decisionmaking and it would never try to put pressure on us. Giving up the PLO's right of representation or of selecting its representatives in any dialogue is out of the question. The PLO insists on its right as the sole party entitled to choose the members of the delegation to the dialogue. [passage omitted]

[Sadiq] Baker's points focus on the issue of elections in the occupied territory. Shamir says that the purpose of such elections would be to elect Palestinians to negotiate with Israel with a view to achieving a limited autonomy. Baker and other U.S. officials have said more than once that the purpose of his points was to facilitate implementation of the election plan in the occupied territory. How do you and the PLO interpret Baker's five points?

[Al-Hasan] I do not believe at all that the Baker plan has anything to do with autonomy as a final solution. Perhaps autonomy is seen as an interim solution, but certainly neither we nor Baker see it as the final solution. Baker outlined the U.S. position in his speech to the AIPAC [American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee] and subsequent statements. Before that George Shultz spelled out the U.S. policy in his 16 September 1988 statement. Everything issued by the current U.S. Administration confirms previous commitments. Autonomy as a final solution is in Shamir's mind, not in the minds of the Palestinians or Americans. There is a battle coming—there can be no doubt about that.

Our interpretation of Baker's plan is that Shamir proposed elections and Baker agreed. Elections require a number of measures, because of the occupation. These matters should be discussed. [passage omitted]

[Sadiq] Do you believe the tripartite meeting will be held this month?

[Al-Hasan] The United States, Egypt, and Israel are all saying that the meeting will be held in the second half of this month.

[Sadiq] But some reports maintain that the meeting will be held neither this month nor next month because no agreement has been reached on the the topics to be discussed, which you have previously spoken of and are undoubtedly aware of.

[Al-Hasan] Whether the meeting is held or not and whether they agree or not—that is Baker's problem. Shamir made a proposal and Baker accepted it, and on Baker's suggestion we agreed. So it is Baker—not Egypt or we—who is the maestro, and it is he who is supposed to bring Shamir to the table. We will not be there directly at this stage. We will be at the Cairo meeting, not the Washington meeting. [passage omitted]

[Sadiq] You have referred to current U.S. policy. How do you assess the policy of President George Bush's administration at present? Is it different from the policy of the former administration on the Palestinian question?

[Al-Hasan] I believe that the current administration is of a new kind, not only intrinsically but also in relation to the circumstances in which it assumed its responsibilities—circumstances of international detente. International detente means that ultimately there will be cooperation instead of confrontation between the two superpowers. [passage omitted]

The general atmosphere in the world is changing in favor of cooperation and peace instead of conflict.

The changes in Eastern Europe have confirmed two basic facts. Perhaps Shamir's deafness will be affected by the echo of these two events, and perhaps he will listen.

What has happened confirms that only the people have a right to choose their representatives and that nothing can be imposed on the people that conflicts with their interests. If there is injustice it must be eliminated. Shamir must understand that. Reality dictates that the Washington meeting produce positive results and that consequently the Cairo meeting be held and succeed. I believe that the U.S. Administration grasps the change and its magnitude because it is part of that change.

[Sadiq] Will that great change affect U.S.-Israeli relations in the future?

[Al-Hasan] We would be dreaming if we thought that the United States would become hostile to Israel as a result of the change.

[Sadiq] I did not say that it would be hostile to Israel or abandon it. My question was, how far do you think that the changes you mentioned will affect U.S.-Israeli relations?

[Al-Hasan] We can say that the new changes in the world will definitely cause a change of roles. The pro-Israel media in the United States used to argue that Israel stood in the way of communist expansion. They cannot make that claim now because communism is no longer a part of the cold war. U.S.-Soviet relations are now more relations of cooperation than confrontation. The same applies to military aid, which is bound to be affected. That is why we are beginning to hear the refrain from the Jewish side that achievement of peace between the Palestinians and the Israelis and the establishment of a Palestinian state must be conditional on the continuation of U.S. aid to Israel. [passage omitted]

[Sadiq] How do you view the restoration of Egyptian-Syrian relations? Would it help settle the chronic differences between the PLO and Damascus? Have there been any new developments regarding your relations with Damascus?

[Al-Hasan] Relations between the PLO and Damascus are still at zero point and the Syrian gate will not be open to the PLO unless the crisis or situation in Lebanon is resolved, regardless of how it is resolved. What is important is that none of this will happen before the Lebanese situation is resolved because the issue with Syria is one of priorities. Now that the Iraq-Iran war is over, Lebanon is the top priority.

The Syrians believe that all the current peace efforts to settle the Palestinian question will produce no results and that in the end everyone will go back to the Syrian position. I personally do not believe that to be correct, but I do believe that a settlement of the Lebanese situation or getting close to such a settlement would open the Syrian gate to the PLO; but we would not enter it except on condition that Palestinian decisionmaking remains independent. Nobody has the right to infringe the right of independent decisionmaking within a framework of legitimacy emanating from the Palestine National Council resolutions and of Arab legitimacy emanating from the Arab summit resolutions. A second point, which follows on from the first and which concerns internal affairs, is the condition that there be no interference of any kind in our internal affairs.

As regards the restoration of Egyptian-Syrian relations, we are happy about it because we have great faith in Egypt. We and Egypt are not rivals, and the restoration of Egyptian-Syrian relations is great because its does not mean the formation of a bloc but will, rather, contribute to Arab solidarity, which is quite in harmony with our policy and strategy. We cannot achieve anything without Arab solidarity. The Palestinian train can only make progress in the international arena by means of Arab solidarity.

West Bank's Al-Tibi Praises Weizman Role

PM1001092590 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Jan 90 p 3

[Interview with Palestinian West Bank figure Dr Ahmad al-Tibi by Zaki Shihab in Amman; date not given]

[Text] [Shihab] You are in Amman, but there is a clamor in Israel regarding what has been described as contacts, through you, between Weizman and the PLO. What is your role and your relationship with the Israeli minister?

[Al-Tibi] It is a personal friendship. In principle I support negotiations between the Israeli Government and the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. As a Palestinian I believe that the PLO is that representative. I believe that everyone should see it the same way, including Yitzhaq Shamir. The Likud leader will not be at the head of his party forever. He will go and someone else will take his place, but the PLO lives on, with its masses and with its objectives, reflected recently in its desire for a just peace that fulfills the Palestnian people's right to self-determination and an independent state. Both sides should come to the negotiating table to put an end to the tragedy which has rendered the Palestinian people homeless and seen many Israeli families lose their sons in wars and conflicts related to this problem.

[Shihab] The day before yesterday the Israeli prime minister said that he has records and documents confirming Weizman's contacts with the PLO through you. How true is that?

[Al-Tibi] Even if he has all the evidence, as he claims, I will continue to meet and talk with Weizman or anyone else. I will not be intimidated by Shamir's intelligence service's 24-hour surveillance and phone tapping.

[Shihab] What do you have in common with Weizman?

[Al-Tibi] Very close friendship. We meet very often. What concerns us is the desire to establish a just peace and the conviction that there can be no solution without the participation of the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people.

[Shihab] Are there any common hobbies, for example?

[Al-Tibi] (smiling) We eat kabab together at the National in Jerusalem.

[Shihab] Are there any other Labor Party members or ministers who share Weizman's beliefs?

[Al-Tibi] Yes, most of them share Weizman's convictions. Many Likud members even talk privately along the same lines, but the difference between them and Weizman is the latter's moral courage, which will undoubtedly be most effective in bringing about internal change in Israeli society and its view of peace.

The results of an Israeli radio poll published yesterday, for example, were good news, confirming the desire and inclination of many Israelis to have peace.

We hope that the idea of talks with the PLO will penetrate the ranks of ordinary, average Israelis and not just people in salons. No hope can be pinned on Shamir to bring a change in favor of peace, so long as he taps the telephones of ministers and ordinary citizens. I would like the Labor Party, for once in its life, to make public what goes on behind the closed doors and disclose the positions taken.

[Shihab] When do you expect such a change to take place in the Labor Party?

[Al-Tibi] It will be gradual. It is no simple matter. The Palestinian people have been patient for 40 years and have sacrificed much. Let us not forget that Israeli society is itself in a state of war and that there are widows and bereaved mothers on both sides—although there is no room for comparison.

[Shihab] What specifically was your mission?

[Al-Tibi] I would rather not go into that, but I would like to say how highly appreciated Weizman is in the Western capitals and even in some Arab capitals for the positions he has taken on the Palestinian question and for his understanding, to a large extent, of the Palestinian position. Today or tomorrow you will see how well respected Weizman is by Soviet diplomats and the Foreign Ministry in general on his current visit to the Soviet Union. That is a result of his openness and desire for peace.

[Shihab] Do you expect him to play a major role in the future?

[Al-Tibi] Weizman has a role to play, of course, and his mission is not over yet.

[Shihab] It is assumed that your current visit to Jordan is part of a mission connected with Weizman. How true is that?

[Al-Tibi] It is a family visit. My uncle, Dr Subhi al-Tibi, died and the Jordanian authorities were kind enough to permit me and my family to visit.

[Shihab] What about your previous visit to Tunis?

[Al-Tibi] I will not talk about that.

[Shihab] Were there other visits to Tunis before that?

[Al-Tibi] No comment.

[Shihab] Did you meet with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat during your visit to Tunis, and what impression did you come away with?

[Al-Tibi] I will not comment on the first part of the question. Abu 'Ammar ['Arafat] is a great man and struggler and I am too small to pass judgment on him. I respect him and share his optimism about our people's future.

[Shihab] In view of recent developments, are you optimistic about the possibility of PLO-Israeli dialogue in the near future?

[Al-Tibi] It seems that there will indeed be a dialogue, despite Shamir and his opposition to the principle of dialogue with the PLO. I cannot imagine any kind of dialogue without the PLO's playing a part in it. In other words, there can be no Israeli-Palestinian dialogue unless the PLO plays an essential part in it and unless Palestinians from inside and outside the occupied territory take part.

Algeria

Bendjedid Meets With Communist Leader

LD1101112890 Algiers APS in English 1002 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] Algiers, 11 Jan (APS)—President Chadli Bendjedid audienced Wednesday [10 January] here the first secretary of the Party of Socialist Avant-Garde (PAGS) [Socialist Vanguard Party] Sadek Hadjeres.

Sadek Hadjeres thanked the president for this initiative which is in the interest of democratic nationalist forces which are working in order to find solutions to problems the country is facing. He added: "We have seized the deep significance of such meetings."

The president of the republic hoped that these meetings be the occasion of an open and fruitful dialogue as the question of reforms concerns every one and the way to realize them and the Constitution are very clear in this field. Moreover, the president insisted on the necessity to take into consideration the Constitution in its wider sense.

The president of the republic also received the secretary general of the Gathering for Culture and Democracy (RCD), Said Saadi. "The objective of this meeting, the president of republic told Saadi, lies in the exchange of views and I hope to listen more to you than to talk.

Concerning some excesses that have been noted, the president said: "We are in an experimental step which I consider as positive. The few excesses that have been noted are the consequences of the lack of experience". He added that the state "is present to fight these excesses thanks to efforts of all, especially [now] that parties are becoming present in every day life".

In his answer Saadi said: "We are present in order to reinforce with you the democratic process".

Communist Party Head Interviewed

LD1001214590 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Excerpts] President Chadli Bendjedid received at 1115 in his office [word indistinct] Sadek Hadjeres, who is first secretary of the Socialist Vanguard Party.

Upon entering the president's office, Sadek Hadjeres expressed his gratitude for the good and positive initiative taken by President Chadli Bendjedid. He added that he understands the far-reaching significance of these meetings, the meetings of the broad dialogue of all democratic and nationalist forces in the country.

Chadli Bendjedid answered him by saying that this is the first, and definitely not the last, such meeting; that the Constitution is clear and everyone should accept its broad definition; and that the reforms are the concern of everyone. Here is Mahfoud Mennan from the president's office:

[Mennan] Following the audience, Sadek Hadjeres met with a number of journalists.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Sadek Hadjeres, after 33 years of secret political life, today you were received as an official of a political party by the president of the republic. To begin, what are your impressions?

[Hadjeres] We are pleased with this audience, with this initiative of the president, because it gave us an opportunity to raise the concern of the working people and those who are deprived in this difficult situation which all of us in Algeria are witnessing: The political and social situation on the one hand, and the rise of antidemocratic movements on the other, a matter that endangers even a solution of the economic problems. Everybody is awaiting such solutions! This [audience with the president] was an opportunity to put forward some proposals. We hope that this exchange will be extended to the level of the masses.

[Correspondent] Do you have an initial evaluation of this audience?

[Hadjeres] We look at it as paving the way for dialogue. We still consider that dialogue is the only way for all forces which believe in democracy and believe in the unity of action to resolve these difficult problems.

[Correspondent] Do you think that if all the current parties sit down together they could resolve the country's problems?

[Hadjeres] Not just parties, the masses also must do that. The parties cannot do anything on their own [words indistinct].

[Correspondent] In this context, in the context of participation, you have called and you still call for a broad front. Is this an additional tactical choice or does it stem from conviction?

[Hadjeres] This is our deep and principled conviction. It stems from our faith in the ability of the people. The aim of such a front is not that the parties meet around a table—the aim is to mobilize all the relevant forces to resolve these social problems: unemployment, housing, and reassurance in daily life.

[Correspondent] Hadjeres, what do you think of the government's economic policy?

[Hadjeres] The government has put forward some directives and schemes. I know that the situation is complicated and difficult; we must now look at implementation. Directives are a starting point; the need for reforms is something that is known. However, when it comes to implementation, there must be greater meticulousness and detail. That should be with the participation of all those who are affected by the matter: workers, cadres and every [words indistinct]. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] What is your position on religion in the country?

[Hadjeres] Our position is...[changes thought] I mean, what do you mean by that? Our people are Muslim.

[Correspondent] I mean as far as being a communist party is concerned.

[Hadjeres] As far as our party is concerned, our party respects the Islamic religion. In our program as a political party, we have tangible aims, political aims. It is not religion which differentiates us from the other parties.

[Correspondent] The position of the Socialist Vanguard Party, which is a communist party, is difficult in the political arena in the background of the collapse of the symbols of communism throughout the world.

[Hadjeres] Of course, there are difficulties. This is an important experiment as far as all peoples, workers, and all who believe in socialism are concerned. However, we consider this experiment, this renewal which is happening, as encouraging for all democratic forces who consider socialism and democracy as the same thing. We must reinforce socialism with democracy, by practicing democracy. This is a very valuable experiment. [passage omitted]

Bendjedid's Contacts With Party Leaders Viewed

LD1101114690 Algiers APS in English 1046 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] Algiers, 11 Jan (APS)—The year 1990 has started well for the pluralist democracy in Algeria. President Chadli Bendjedid, president of all Algerians, received the leaders of various political parties. In this context, he received the president of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), the Social Democratic Party (PSD), the Front of Socialist Forces (FFS), the Party of Socialist Avant Garde (PAGS) [Socialist Vanguard Party], and the Gathering for Culture and Democracy (RCD).

For the president of the republic, the present action is signification. It is aimed at favoring the emergence and the development of a democratic, real and solid political culture thanks to permanent dialogue, a sound competition and the full responsibility...in the supreme interests of the nation and the mobilization around the essential concerns.

This action is also symbolic if one considers the moment which is politically, a few months from the first big and true test for all the formations: municipal and provincial elections by which these formations will prove their presence and their consistency thanks to results obtained. [as received]

2 New Political Parties Approved

LD1001203190 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] There are two newcomers in official political life: The Socialist Workers Party, the PST, and the Progressive Forces Union, the UNFP, have just been approved. That makes a total of seven parties approved and four more awaiting approval [words indistinct].

Egypt

Mubarak Appoints New Interior Minister

NC1201112990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1128 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jan (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has issued a decree appointing Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa as interior minister.

New Minister Sworn In

NC1201130090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1250 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jan (MENA)—Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa was sworn in before President Muhammad Husni Mubarak this afternoon.

Arafat Views Peace Efforts, Israel's Stand

NC1001211190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2015 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Excerpts] Cairo, 10 Jan (MENA)—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat has warned that in the event of a lack of response to the PLO's peace efforts which enjoy Arab and international approval, he will be compelled to return to the Palestine National Council to adopt measures in light of the Israeli intransigence and the United States' biased attitude toward Israel.

Addressing a ceremony marking the beginning of Palestine's cultural and artistic days this evening in Cairo, the Palestinian president reviewed the various peace efforts since 1974 when the PLO offered an olive branch. In 1988, the PLO presented its peaceful initiative at the UN premises in Geneva which was approved by the international community and the United States itself. He pointed out that Israel had aborted all peace efforts, including U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's plan when Israel issued a condition insisting on naming the members of the Palestinian delegation and demanding that the negotiations should not lead to subsequent negotiations regarding the peace process.

President 'Arafat criticized the U.S. stand and its complete bias toward Israel. He added that this U.S. stand is represented in its failure to support President Mubarak's 10 points during the voting which took place at the Inner Israeli Cabinet meeting.

President 'Arafat stressed that the struggle between the Palestinian people and Israel is over culture. He noted that it is no coincidence that Israel concentrates on this kind of struggle. This is evident in the closure of the educational institutions in the occupied territories for the third year in a row. [passage omitted]

The Palestinian president reiterated that the intifadah in the occupied territories will remain independent until the Palestinian people regain their national rights, foremost being their right to self-determination. He said that Israeli leaders should give up their illusions that they can change the inhabitants of the occupied territories to something like the Red Indians in the United States. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Addresses Rally on Economy, IMF

NC1101202990 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has said that positions of responsibility do not mean privileges and perks for their holders, but burdens and hard work. Recalling the country's situation when he first came into office, President Mubarak said that at that time he set certain goals for himself. Among these were the establishment and enhancement of democracy, the complete liberation of the national soil, and the pursuit of economic reforms according to plans defining the country's priorities with regard to production and services.

The president expounded his views on the need to attain an atmosphere of stability that would benefit the country and the citizens. He said that Egypt should conduct its external relations in accordance with its Arab, Islamic, and African standing.

This came in a speech which the president delivered at a popular rally held in Jirja in the Sawhaj governorate today. Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said that at this rally President Mubarak discussed the population problem, stating that the annual population increase of 1.3 million leads to food shortages, slows down economic growth, and makes improvements in living standards harder to achieve.

The president disclosed that no agreement has yet been concluded with the IMF, for Egypt is opposed to any attempt to impose additional burdens on those sections of the population with modest incomes.

Al-Sharif said that President Mubarak discussed the economic burdens resulting from the military debts incurred by Egypt prior to 1980. The president also reviewed the current political changes in the world and said that these changes are actually a reflection of economic realities.

President Mubark noted that Egypt is still committed to the causes of the Arab people, chief of which is the Palestinian issue. He said that Egypt seeks a just and comprehensive Middle East peace.

President Mubarak visited the Sawhaj governorate this morning. The president, who was accompanied by several ministers, inaugurated the first stage of a second railway track connecting Asyut and Luxor. The president then went by train to Jirja, where he inaugurated a sugar factory and attended a popular rally held in that factory.

'Abd-al-Majid Cited on Blue Nile Dam

NC1101172590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1602 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 11 Jan (MENA)—'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has disclosed that the Foreign Ministry recently received reports from the Egyptian Embassy in Israel that Israeli officials have denied the participation by Israeli experts in the construction of a dam on the Blue Nile in Ethiopia, as has been reported lately.

In a statement which Ambassador Sayyid Abu-Zayd read out on his behalf at a meeting of the Consultative Council today, Dr 'Abd-al-Majid said that the Foreign Ministry has been investigating these reports in view of the seriousness of the matter. He asserted that the ministry is closely and earnestly following all information involving any projects on the Nile River that may endanger Egypt's water resources.

'Abd-al-Majid noted that Egypt continues to seek full cooperation with other Nile valley countries and is eager to eliminate any doubts or friction that may arise within the Undugo group [for cooperation among countries sharing the river Nile].

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid said that Egypt maintains fraternal and close ties with Ethiopia and that these ties are based on mutual understanding and common interests. He added that our ties with Sudan constitute a "strategic landmark" and aim at promoting mutual interests and reinforcing stability in Sudan. [passage omitted]

Kuwaiti Premier on World, Arab, Domestic Issues

LD1101122290 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Excerpts] His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim Al Sabah, the heir apparent and prime minister, has praised the results of his visit to fraternal Egypt and talks he conducted with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Prime Minister Dr Atif Sidqi.

In a press conference he conducted before noon today at his residence in al-Qubbah Palace in Cairo, his highness expressed his thanks and gratitude to President Mubarak, Dr Sidqi, and the Egyptian Government for the warm reception and hospitality accorded him and the accompanying delegation during the visit. [passage omitted]

Replying to a question about current changes in the world, his highness said a study already has started to investigate reasons for the changes in Eastern Europe

and all over the world to draw up a strategy with the Arab brothers for facing up to eventual negative aspects which might be reflected in the Arab homeland. He added the Arab foreign ministers are studying this strategy, and they will submit it to Arab leaders at the first Arab summit.

Replying to a question about the return of parliamentary life to Kuwait, the heir apparent and prime minister said: The amiri decree to dissolve the National Assembly clearly has shown that measure does not mean the end of parliamentary life. We believe in the benefits of popular participation and its role in effective supervision and legislation to find a formula enabling Kuwait to avoid crisis. He said: Now and in the future, we will work as brothers, and our motto will be love, fraternity, tolerance, and endeavors for Kuwait's benefit. His highness added: The issue of press censorship now is being studied, and the results will appear in the next few days.

On Arab groups and future coordination and integration between them, the heir apparent and prime minister announced the Gulf Cooperation Council, Arab Cooperation Council, and Arab Maghreb union all are tributaries which pour their waters in the great Arab river, whose aim is unity of word and rank.

On Turkish-Bulgarian talks on the Turkish-Muslim minority in Bulgaria, the heir apparent and prime minister said: In this issue, developments have occurred between the governments of the two countries after the initiative launched by the amir and his meetings with the ex-presidents of the two countries in his capacity as chairman of Islamic conference organization's fifth session. Regarding this, he pointed to the two meetings hosted by Kuwait between the foreign ministers of both countries.

Further Remarks at News Conference

NC1101131690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1100 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Excerpts] Cairo, 11 Jan (MENA)—Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, has praised the good relations between Egypt and Kuwait at the leadership, government, and popular levels. He asserted that the State of Kuwait is both eager and willing to establish cooperation with Egypt in various fields to bring about prosperity and benefits for both peoples.

The Kuwaiti prime minister expressed his country's appreciation for Egypt's sacrifices and efforts to defend Arab rights and identity and regain the usurped rights of the Palestinian people.

These statements were made at a news conference Shaykh al-Sabah held at the al-Qubbah Palace today, at the end of his 4-day visit to Egypt. [passage omitted]

Shaykh al-Sabah expressed satisfaction with his meeting with President Mubarak, noting that they discussed the current situation in the Arab nation and the potential consequences of recent developments in Eastern Europe and the expected European union in 1992. The meeting also discussed the Palestinian problem, the Iraq-Iran dialogue, the situation in Lebanon, and bilateral relations, he said. [passage omitted]

Sahykh al-Sabah was asked about Kuwait's view of the recent changes in Eastern Europe, the expected European union in 1992, and the effects these developments will have on the Arab world. He said: We followed these rapid developments and changes in Eastern and Western Europe closely and initiated a study on an Arab strategy to tackle any repercussions they may have on the Arab world at the political, economic, and military levels. This strategy must be considered by the Arab foreign ministers during their next meeting, so that they can present their recommendations at the first Arab summit, he said.

Asked about the prospects for Kuwaiti investment in Egypt after the implementation of the new investment laws, the Kuwaiti heir apparent asserted that his country is eager to establish cooperation with Egypt in various investment spheres in both the public and the private sectors. He referred in this regard to the agreements signed by the two countries yesterday to establish commercial centers in both countries. He noted that these agreements are a wise step which will be followed by others in the near future. [passage omitted]

Responding to a question on the resumption of parliamentary life and the abolition of censorship of the press in Kuwait, the Kuwaiti prime minister noted that the amir's decreee dissolving the Kuwaiti National Assembly in July 1986 does not mean the end of parliamentary life in the country. He said: We in Kuwait believe in the importance of popular participation in supervision and legislation. Therefore, he said, we will try to find a suitable formula which will protect Kuwait against a third parliamentary crisis. He added: As citizens of a small state, we work as brothers under the slogan of fraternity, amity, and tolerance to serve the country's interests, both now and in the future. He asserted that the abolition of press censorship will be considered and that a decision on this issue will be made known in the next few days. [passage omitted]

On Kuwait's role in resolving the issue of the Turkish Muslim minority in Bulgaria, Shaykh al-Sabah pointed out that the Kuwaiti amir met with the Turkish and Bulgarian presidents on the sidelines of the nonaligned summit last September and agreed with them that the foreign ministers of both countries would meet in Kuwait to resolve the problem. After two meetings in Kuwait, a formula was reached to settle the differences between the two countries. Accordingly, he said, the Bulgarian authorities issued a number of laws offering certain facilities to Muslims. He noted that the Bulgarian and Turkish foreign ministers will hold another meeting in Kuwait in the next few days to resume their dialogue. [passage omitted]

Justice Minister, Kuwaiti Counterpart Sign Accord

NC0901202190 Cairo MENA in English 1915 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] Cairo, Jan. 9 (MENA)—Egypt and Kuwait signed tonight an extradition agreement at the Ministry of Justice.

Justice Minister Sayf al-Nasr signed the agreement for Egypt and his visiting Kuwaiti counterpart Shaykh 'Abdallah al-'Uthman signed for Kuwait.

The Egyptian and Kuwaiti justice ministers hailed the judicial cooperation between the two countries and voiced their readiness to offer all means of support in the field of justice to other Arab countries.

Trade Protocol Signed With USSR

NC1101150090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1303 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] Moscow, 11 Jan (MENA)—Egypt and the Soviet Union signed the trade protocol for the year 1990 in Moscow today. The new protocol allows for an increase of 60 million pounds sterling in Soviet exports to Egypt and of 25 million pounds sterling in Egyptian exports to the Soviet Union.

Muhsin Shihab, head of the Public Sector's External Trade Agency, who signed the protocol for Egypt, said that the protocol aims at increasing the volume of trade between the two countries and diversifying the goods being exchanged so as to absorb the new production in both countries.

Shihab noted that according to the protocol the total Soviet exports to Egypt will reach 360 million pounds sterling during year while the Egyptian exports to the Soviet Union will reach 315 million pounds sterling.

Statistics on Egyptians in Iraq Reported

JN0301185190 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 2 Jan 90 p 1

[Text] Ambassador 'Abd-al-Qadir Salamah, head of the Consular Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has said that the number of Egyptians who returned from Iraq during 1989 stands at 666,250, including some 89,000 who have returned home since 15 November. He added that the number of Egyptians currently present in Iraq stands at almost 750,000. Furthermore, he indicated that the recent problems in Iraq were caused by the disorganized travel of workers to Iraq without contracts.

Addressing the Manpower Committee of the People's Assembly which is chaired by Mukhtar 'Abd-al-Hamid, the ambassador said that more remittances will be transferred this year to the workers who left Iraq. He added that the amounts agreed upon during the Iraqi deputy prime minister's visit to Cairo have been transferred to Egypt. He pointed out that there is a plan to unify the labor legislations operating in the Arab Cooperation Council's member states.

Libya

Tripoli Denies Egypt's Mediation on U.S-Held Funds

LD1101124890 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1150 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] Tripoli, 11 Jan (JANA)—WAKH reported today—and some foreign news agencies quoted it—that brother Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir visited Egypt carrying a message from the brother leader to the brother president of the Arab Republic of Egypt asking him to convince the U.S. President to lift the embargo on Libyan funds in the United States.

We would like to stress the following:

First, Col Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir did not visit Egypt. If he had, it would have been announced in the media at the time. Therefore the issue of the message is completely unfounded.

Second the Great Jamahiriyah has repeatedly stated that the so-called economic sanctions and other U.S. measures against it will never, under any circumstances, affect Libya. On the contrary, they only affect and harm U.S. companies and organizations and hence the system to which they belong.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Syrian Education Official

JN1001182090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution, yesterday evening met Dr Kamal Sharaf, minister of higher education. Brother Ahmad Ibrahim, secretary of the Popular Committee for Higher Education in the Jamahiriyah and Mr Majd-al-Din Nashid, Syrian charge d'affairs in Tripoli, attended.

Col al-Qadhdhafi emphasized the pioneering role played by Syrian universities in Arabizing higher education in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and the need to develop and enhance relations between the two countries in higher education and scientific research.

Moroccan Envoy Delivers Hassan Message

LD0701234190 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2300 GMT 7 Jan 90

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution this evening received Brother Driss Basri, personal envoy of King Hassan II of Morocco and minister of interior and information, who handed him a message from King Hassan II.

The meeting was attended by the Moroccan ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah. Brother Driss Basri, personal

envoy of King Hassan II and minister of interior and information in fraternal Morocco, arrived in Tripoli this evening for a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Sudan

Government Confirms Readiness To Talk With Rebels

EA1101103190 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] Staff Brigadier al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council, has confirmed the government's total readiness to hold another round of negotiations with the rebel movement. He said that the round would rely upon previously held rounds of negotiations.

He said in a press statement that the first round of negotiations held in Addis Ababa had created mutual confidence between the two sides, while the Nairobi meeting had provided them with an opportunity to draw their views closer together, having gained a grasp of the steps that need to be taken and of the essence of the issue.

Brig al-Zubayr said the government had a clear design, as represented by the results achieved and the resoutions adopted by the National Peace Dialogue Conference, which constituted a basic cornerstone for the purpose of negotiations. He said those recommendations constituted a draft agenda for a constitutional conference.

He said: We are proponents of peace and will do everything in our power to see that peace is achieved either through intermediaries or through our official channels inasmuch as peace is the basic course by which to solve Sudan's problems.

Referring to Israel's presence in Ethiopia. Brig al-Zubayr said: This constitutes a clear threat to the Arab and Islamic world and to the neighboring states. He said the Israeli conspiracy represented an obvious siege of the country.

He said the Israeli presence violated what had been agreed upon at the OAU [Organization of African Unity] in terms of adhering to the boycott of Israel. He added that Sudan would protest to the OAU in this respect.

Governor Cites Kajo Kaji 'Tactical Withdrawal'

EA1101210590 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Major General Allison Manani Magaya, Equatoria regional governor, has announced that the people's armed forces have destroyed three main camps of the outlaws including Muruto camp, situated 17 miles from the Kajo Kaji area. This has caused damage to the strength of the outlaws' forces.

A neighboring country has intervened by sending helicopter gunships and 106-mm heavy artillery to assist the outlaws. The battle lasted for 6 hours, during which the outlaws suffered heavy losses. Twenty-five soldiers and officers were martyred during the battle, thus compelling our forces to make a tactical withdrawal from the area. Maj Gen Magaya expressed regret at the intervention of the neighboring state in aid of the rebels. [passage omitted]

New Death Toll Reported in 'Tribal Dispute'

EA0701184090 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 7 Jan 90

[Text] The following statement has been issued concerning the tribal clashes which occurred in Al-Jabalayn [White Nile region] towards the end of last month.

Brigadier al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] accompanied by the governor of the central region, his deputy, the Blue Nile regional commissioner, the commander of Kosti garrison and their retinue, made an inspection visit to the Al-Jabalayn area in order to get an insight into the tribal dispute which erupted in the early hours of 28 December.

It became clear to the delegation that the dispute, which had started as a normal quarrel, developed into a tribal dispute, whose toll of victims reached 210 dead among the Shilluk tribe, and 4 dead among the (?Subha). Thirty-eight Shilluk were wounded. They are now in Kosti hospital.

The leadership of [word indistinct] and the central region's security committee have already moved to contain the incident, and they have effectively halted it. Maximum security has been imposed throughout the area.

Upon the arrival of the delegation at Al-Jabalayn, a meeting was held between individuals representing the Shilluk and (?Subha) tribes, and leading figures of Al-Jabalayn area. The meeting was aimed at reconciling the two sides, as well as obtaining details of the incident.

Meanwhile, His Excellency Brig al-Zubayr disclosed that a senior committee would be formed immediately to investigate the background of the events, and that initial investigations are in progress. Some suspects from both sides have already been apprehended, and the local authorities in the region have begun providing for the essential needs of those affected.

His excellency the deputy chairman of the RCC and the governor of the central region praised the high level of responsibility assumed by the administrative and local authorities, armed forces and police, which resulted in containment of the situation and tranquillity, thus enabling the citizens to go on with their normal activities in (?ease) and peace.

Meanwhile, upon returning from Al-Jabalayn, the delegation visited the wounded Shilluks at Kosti hospital, and directives were issued to the local authorities to provide them with all their needs. The delegation also issued a [word indistinct] to the Kosti inhabitants, represented in salvation committees [words indistinct] in efforts to meet some of the needs of those affected.

SPLA Reports Capture of Tabuli Garrison

EA1101205590 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] Units of New Cush forces of (Mirrawi) task force under the operational command of Captain Awad al-Karim Kuku and overall command of Commander Yusuf Kuwah Makki captured the enemy garrison of Tabuli in southern Kurdufan. The enemy garrison fell to the hands of SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] soldiers of New Cush on Sunday 7 January 1990 at 1600 hours [1400 GMT] after a series of attacks that started on 22 December 1989.

[On] 31 December 1989 a successful attack [was] launched on the garrison in which the enemy lost 45 soldiers. On 5 January 1990 the garrison was besieged completely. On 6 January 1990 the zonal headquarters of Commander Yusuf Kuwah Makki joined the battle and the enemy was evicted. Remnants fled the garrison at 1630 hours [1430 GMT] in broad daylight.

SPLA forces of New Cush are now in firm control of Tabuli and operations are being intensified in southern Kurdufan.

SPLA Reports Fate of Government Commanding Officer

EA1101211190 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Libeation Army in English 1300 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] In a separate development, SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] units of the "Bright Star" Operation around Kaya [on Sudan-Uganda border] have learned that the fugitive Brigadier PSC [Passed Staff College] Isaiah Paul has reached Kaya after 5 days of running in the bush. The brigadier arrived in Kaya wearing only dirty underwear. The brigadier had thrown away his rank insignia. He had thrown away his boots and his honor.

Brig Isaiah Paul had bragged that if he did not enter Kajo Kaji he would resign from the army, according to the message he had sent to junta's chief of staff and which the SPLA found in the place of the ambush. Brig Isaiah Paul should make good of his promise and resign from the army before he sacrifices more innocent soldiers to the objectives of the National Islamic Front.

IDA Credit for Khartoum-Port Sudan Road Repair

EA1001124590 Khartoun SUNA in English 1005 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] Khartoum, 10 Jan (SUNA)—The Internationl Development Association, (IDA), an affiliate of the World Bank, has agreed to provide Sudan with a credit totalling 82 million dollars for the rehabilitation of Khartoum-Port Sudan highway.

The credit will be allocated for the maintenance and rehabilitation of 75 per cent of the road's affected areas, particularly those located between Gedarif and Port Sudan, including the reconstruction of about 70 km of the road, repavement of 500 km and repair works of 105 bridges, as well as laying down of emergency system to prevent premature deterioration of the road which are mainly resulted from vehicle overloading and floods.

Part of the credit is to be earmarked for providing "technical assistance" for the Roads and Bridges Public Corporation (RBPC).

The total rehabilitation cost of the 1,182 km-long highway is put at 114 million dollars.

Japanese-Funded Water Project Inaugurated

EA0601182090 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 6 Jan 90

[Summary] Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, member of the Revolution Command Council and political supervisor of the eastern region, today inaugurated Kassala's new water project, which is funded by the Japanese Government to the tune of 22 million dollars. The colonel praised Japan's contribution to development in Sudan.

Bahrain

Prime Minister Welcomes Iraqi Peace Initiative

JN1101114290 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1100 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Manama, 11 Jan (WAKH)—Bahraini Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah has expressed Bahrain's deep appreciation for the constructive proposals recently announced by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to achieve peace with Iran.

In a statement to WAKH today, his highness said the positive spirit and humanitarian implications of the proposals underscore the sincere desire to create a climate of confidence between the two neighboring countries, Iraq and Iran, and provide new opportunity to international efforts aimed at implementing Security Council Resolution No 598 to bring about a just, lasting and comprehensive peace between the two countries and achieve security and stability in the region. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Amnesty International Human Rights Report Denied

LD1101152690 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] A responsible source called on Amnesty International to differentiate in its reports between [on the one hand] carrying out legal provisions and implementing sentences according to Islamic shari'a and teachings, and between [on the other hand] those implemented according to positive [secular] law.

The responsible source was commenting on reports according to which the organization today issued a report on what it called violations of human rights in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

In its statement to SPA, the source said: "The information published by the organization was not accurate; besides, it is exaggerated and based on testimony which should not have been considered in view of the distortion and biased machinations by suspicious sources they used."

The source denied there are political prisoners in the Kingdom, emphasizing all cases are looked into—according to Islamic shari'a—by judges with a high degree of knowledge of religious law and science. They then are submitted to the Supreme Judicial Council, considered the highest legal authority in the Kingom, composed of men of Islamic shari'a and experts in religious law.

The source pointedly asserted the law, according to Islamic shari'a, does not distinguish between color, sex, social class or creed; rather it considers people equal. Nor does it allow confessions to be made under coercion, pressure, torture, or any other method contrary to the dignity of the human being as explained by Islamic shari'a and as implemented by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The source appealed anew to Amnesty International to distinguish in its classifications between public sentences, which the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has meted out according to Islamic shari'a legal provisions and laws, and those sentences meted in other countries according to laws drawn up by human beings who are more likely to be wrong than right. He further urged the organization not to confuse divine legislation with human legislation. If the matter is not clear to it, it should seek whatever information it desires to know from the Kingdom's official sources.

Shamir Seen Using Weizman Affair for Own Ends

PM1201110590 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 9 Jan 90 p 5

[By 'Abdallah Muhammad Bakhudayr]

[Text] Yitzhaq Shamir, the enemy prime minister, claimed his aim in dismissing Israeli Science Minister Ezer Weizman was to show to the world Israel rejects a dialogue with the PLO. He said negotiations would lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state, which would mean the end of Israel.

But events prove Shamir is not telling the truth, because his position toward the PLO and on negotiation is known and needs no explanation. He claims he has just discovered the truth about these contacts, which is why he now is angry. Several sources have pointed out Israeli intelligence had knew of these contacts, which started in 1984 after the formation of the first Likud-Labor coalition government, and that these contacts were not confined to Weizman. Other contacts have been made between Israeli officials and a number of Palestinian figures; some PLO members and others close to it.

Shamir undoubtedly knew about these contacts and kept quiet about them to blow the story at the right time. Then he now found it favorable to make some gains. The storm stirred up by Shamir was a reaction to development of continuing events in the region, which came as a surprise to the intransigent terror. It proved a storm in a teacup, because the crisis which nearly led to the toppling of the coalition government was resolved a few days later, namely once Shamir had achieved his aims. That proves the real objective was not the exposure of these contacts or anger at the breach of Israeli law, which bans contacts with the PLO, but, rather, the gains Shamir could make by setting off that explosion.

The first of the events which confused and surprised Shamir was the restoration of Egyptian-Syrian relations and the impact of that restoration, which will strengthen the Arab position, especially with regard to the Egyptian, U.S., and Israeli foreign ministers' meetings expected to be conducted in Washington next month with the aim of

preparing for a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue. That development coincided with the Israeli Government's receipt of the U.S. memorandum containing the reply to Israel's request for U.S. assurances regarding the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, which dashed Shamir's hopes. It did so because Baker stressed the U.S. refused assure Israel no Palestinians from outside the occupied territories would participate, that no other topics the Palestinians might raise during the negotiation would be discussed, or the PLO would be excluded from these negotiations.

The third event that angered Shamir was the big demonstration staged in Jerusalem on the 30th of last month, in which large numbers of European, Israeli, and Palestinian peace advocates took part and which the occupation army confronted and suppressed, injuring many demonstrators and angering the world.

As we pointed out, Shamir's reactions actually are aimed primarily at achieving a local victory and making internal gains to strengthen his position against the Likud hawks (Sharon, Levi, and Moda'i), who reject a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, and to embarrass Shim'on Peres, who cannot leave the government coalition now because he cannot form a government with the extremist right, and also because there is no guarantee more seats would be won if new elections are conducted.

Shamir furthermore also wants to show the Arabs his position will not be affected by Arab developments and the United States—that he still is the strongest man in Israel, especially after the Labor Party leader's clear embarrassment.

The method Shamir used to stir up the Weizman affair is an old Israeli tactical method Shamir knows will not achieve any gains in the long term, but for now and in the short term it delays and hampers the faltering peace process represented at the moment by the Egyptian, U.S., and Israeli foreign ministers' meetings next month in Washington.

The Israeli flight from the peace process parallels the U.S. move to pull back from promoting that process. The present U.S. tactic, which is moving in a vicious circle, does not inspire optimism and will not produce a comprehensive and quick solution to the Middle East problem if the U.S. view and strategy, which see no reason for speed or concern about the present situation in the Middle East, do not change.

United Arab Emirates

Trade Minister Returns From Soviet, Egypt Visits

JN1201105190 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] Sayf al-Jarwan, United Arab Emirates [UAE] economy and trade minister, returned home this morning following a brief visit to Egypt and the Soviet Union. During the visits he signed minutes of meetings of the first session of the UAE-Egyptian joint economic committee and an economic, commercial, and technical agreement between the UAE and the Soviet Union.

Rabin Makes Offer to U.S. To Include Deportees

TA1201081090 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 12 Jan 90 pp 1, 4

[Report by Moti Bassok]

[Excerpt] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will inform U.S. Secretary of State Baker during their meeting in Washington next week that Israel is prepared to include deportees in the Palestinian delegation and allow East Jerusalem Arabs to vote in exchange for the termination of the U.S.-PLO dialogue. This proposal was worked out in the meeting between Rabin and Shamir 2 days ago.

Departure for U.S. Detailed

TA1201053190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin left last night for the United States. He will be there for several days. Rabin is scheduled to visit Los Angeles and Washington and will meet with U.S. Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney and Secretary of State James Baker. His talks will center on peace efforts in the region as well as developments in the Eastern Bloc, the renewal of the strategic understanding memorandum, and U.S. aid to Israel for 1992.

In Israel there has lately been concern by top defense officials over world political developments and America's reduction of its defense budget. The officials fear this cutback will harm U.S. foreign aid, including military aid to Israel.

Ben-Aharon: More 'Clarifications' on 'Assurances'

TA1101201890 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] Israel will request additional clarifications from the United States concerning assurances on the political process. Yosef Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, this evening told our correspondent Dan Semama there still is a gap between what we could have perceived an appropriate reply to the request on the assurances Israel had asked for and what the Americans have provided.

He said it is true that because of the Weizman affair, there has been some delay in Israel's reply to the Americans. Ben-Aharon noted, however, there is no intention on the part of the Israeli Government to delay the political process.

More on Israeli, Palestinian Status in Moscow

Israeli Status Raised

TA1001115390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] Science Minister 'Ezer Weizman had a 2-hour meeting in Moscow this morning with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze. At the meeting, Shevardnadze said: The Soviet Union intends to raise its representation in Israel to consular level, granting it official diplomatic status.

Weizman: Upgrade 'Mistake'

TA1101060590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] Minister 'Ezer Weizman has said the Soviets made a grave mistake when they decided to upgrade the level of the PLO representation in Moscow. In an interview with Meron Tzur, our correspondent in Moscow, Minister Weizman said Shevardnadze did not tell him during their meeting about upgrading the PLO representation. Weizman said the PLO embassy in the USSR only was mentioned in passing. The minister said the Soviet decision is not new, but suddenly was made public to forestall an angry reaction from the Arab countries to the warming up of relations with Israel.

Our correspondent reports Minister Weizman last night hosted a reception in Moscow attended by the entire presidium of the Soviet Academy of Sciences and members of the Supreme Soviet.

The visit will end today with the signing of an accord on the exchange of know-how between the two countries.

Protests Israeli Status

TA1201104990 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 12 Jan 90 p 5

[Report from Zurich by Nahum Barne'a]

[Text] Minister 'Ezer Weizman yesterday transmitted to Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze a message in which he protested the fact Israel's diplomatic status in Moscow is unclear, whereas the PLO was accorded the status of a state.

"It is inconceivable a country such as Israel, which has existed for 42 years, will be given an ambiguous status in Moscow, while the PLO wins the status of a state, even though there is no decision on the permanent solution in the Middle East," Weizman says in his message.

Weizman also expressed dismay at the timing of the announcement on the promotion of the PLO's status and its close proximity to his own meeting with Shevardnadze.

Weizman relayed the message via Soviet Academy of Sciences president Yuriy Marchuk, who holds a senior position in the Soviet hierarchy. Marchuk met with Shevardnadze yesterday morning. Weizman said yesterday he believes the Soviets will raise the level of diplomatic representation with Israel within 6 months.

Weizman's semiofficial visit to the USSR ended yesterday in a unique ceremony in the Academy of Sciences

building. Weizman and Marchuk signed the joint Israeli-Soviet announcement. Shevardnadze yesterday approved its text while seated at the same desk Napoleon had used.

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 12 January, in its front-page report by science correspondent Judy Siegel on the Israeli-Soviet accord, adds "the agreement will allow official exchanges of researchers between the two countries, as well as joint scientific projects and symposia.

["The committee composed of officials and scientists from the USSR and Israel will work out the details of implementing the agreement." She adds "earlier this week, officials at the Moscow space research centre proposed to Weizman that the two countries work together in that field" as "the Russians were interested in Israeli cooperation in the study of the earth's atmosphere."]

Arye Levin, Israel's representative in Moscow, who had clashed with Weizman against the backdrop of his exclusion from the meeting with Shevardnadze, said yesterday he regards the ceremony as "an unprecedented achievement." Levin also praised Weizman's visit to the Soviet Union, saying: "Any ministerial-level visit, if of substance, helps me as well. It raises the level of the representation."

Russian Newspaper Interviews Weizman on PLO

PM0901144190 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Jan 90 Morning Edition p 4

["IZVESTIYA interview" with 'Ezer Weizman, Israeli minister of science and technology, by B. Ivanov in Moscow; date not given: "'Ezer Weizman: Time Is Against Us"]

[Text] It so happened that our meeting took place just 1 week after a sensational political scandal in which my interlocutor was one of the protagonists. Therefore the first question was automatic.

[Ivanov] Were you surprised by the accusation leveled against you by the prime minister?

[Weizman] Yes, I was totally surprised by his statement.

[Ivanov] His accusations boil down to the claim that, in defiance of the official ban, you maintained contacts with PLO representatives. Did you really maintain such contacts?

[Weizman] Yes, I spoke with several PLO representatives and I do not think that I committed some terrible act. On the contrary, I am convinced that my steps will ultimately prove to be a blessing for my country.

[Ivanov] Now that the prime minister has been forced to give up his intention to fire you from the government, do you feel that you are the victor in this conflict?

[Weizman] I do not think that one can talk of victors and vanquished in such a situation. I remain a government minister although, true, I have had to leave the so-called "inner cabinet" (consisting of 12 key ministers participating in the elaboration of the political course). But I am not repentant about what happened; I believe my actions to have been correct. [Weizman ends]

I was sitting face to face with an elderly man. An aquiline nose, graying hair. Tired but attentive eyes. This was 'Ezer Weizman, Israel's minister of science and technology. He is in Moscow at the invitation of the USSR Academy of Sciences. This is his first visit to our country. As a matter of fact, his visit in his capacity as an official Israeli functionary at such a level is also the first in the 23 years since the rupture of diplomatic relations between Moscow and Tel Aviv.

The new year began with some quite tumultuous events for Weizman. Israel's Prime Minister Shamir suddenly publicly accused him of maintaining contacts with PLO representatives and demanded his resignation. According to legislation now in force in Israel, such contacts are tantamount to a crime and are punishable with imprisonment and a monetary fine. The Labor Party leadership declared that if Weizman were forced out, the party would withdraw from the government coalition and would thus throw the country into yet another political crisis. Shamir retreated after this statement. Nevertheless, according to my interlocutor, it cannot be ruled out that this was only a tactical move.

[Ivanov] Some Western reporters write that Shamir's attack on you was directly associated with the current trip to the Soviet Union and that your political opponents supposedly wanted to "dilute" your reputation and diminish the visit's importance....

[Weizman] I do not think so. True, much is being said now on the subject, but I believe the reason lies elsewhere, it is associated rather with the domestic political struggle in Israel. I have no desire to analyze the prevailing situation in detail now, let me only add that the crisis is not yet over.

[Ivanov] Do you think that there might be a sequel?

[Weizman] At least I cannot rule this out. In essence, I was presented with a condition: If you continue to insist on your own opinion, get out of the government. I am a professional soldier, and now I feel that I am once more in battle. I was the target of a heavy artillery salvo. When the smoke disperses, it will be possible to assess the real damage. It is still too early to do this now, not enough time has passed. [Weizman ends]

Weizman was 65 years old last year. His life, like his country's history, is a mixture of war and peace. He fought in all the wars that have been Israel's lot. His was a brilliant military career: Beginning as an ordinary airman, he rose to full general, and in his last years of service held the top position of the country's defense minister. He is considered a people's hero in Israel and is

known as the "founding father" of the country's Air Force. Weizman has always advocated a "strong" Israel and the strengthening of the Jewish state's military might. Our press used no terms but "hawk" and "ultra-rightwinger" to describe him. But his political views suddenly changed. More and more he speaks of the need for talks with the Arabs and says that reliance on military strength is senseless. Back in 1980 Weizman resigned as defense minister out of disagreement with the policy of M. Begin, head of the government at the time, whose aim was to create new Israeli settlements along the West Bank of the Jordan River. Later on, in the mid-eighties, he joined Israel's Labor Party. Today he is perhaps one of the country's best known politicians.

[Weizman] I cannot deny that I was a "hawk." But life does not stand still, and therefore people—and politicians especially—must change. My views have been transformed, even though I must admit this was not easy. I am, after all, a soldier and have educated quite a few airmen and taught them that it is necessary to fight rather than sit around the negotiating table.

The decisive moment when I realized that more can be achieved by peaceful means than with bombs and tanks was A. al-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem in 1977. After this, and for several months thereafter, I was one of the main participants in the elaboration of peace treaties with the Egyptians right up to their final formulation in Camp David. That was 11 years ago. Now, whenever I look back on events at that time, I think to myself: Thank God there was sufficient strength and common sense at the time to conclude peace. After all, that was the first peaceful breakthrough after long years of war and uncertainty. It changed the entire situation so sharply. Thanks to that, I now have many friends among the Egyptians. I can travel to Cairo any time, as if the past years of mutual hostility had never existed. Our present relations with Egypt—to use the current political vocabulary—represent a genuine perestroyka.

I generally assume that today's world trend runs increasingly toward talks. Anyone who fails to realize this is doomed to remain in isolation. It is impossible to resist society's natural development and stick to old dogmas. Any such attempts are doomed to collapse.

[Ivanov] What, in your view, must be done to get the process of a peace settlement in the Near East out of the impasse?

[Weizman] I hope that the changing political situation in the world will force the present Israeli leadership to finally realize the main point: Time is now against us. The sooner this truth is realized, the more quickly the need for talks will prove to be axiomatic. At the same time, we must find in the Arab world representatives who enjoy prestige and trust among Arabs, who have a sense of responsibility, and with whom serious, business-like talks can really be conducted. I personally believe that such a partner is already in existence. It is the PLO. It is possible and necessary to do business with it.

[Ivanov] What do you expect from your visit to Moscow?

[Weizman] Allow me to reply in somewhat greater detail. The point is that the Soviet Union has always held an exceptional place in our awareness. Please understand me correctly: People of my generation were raised on Russian traditions and culture. My father was born in Pinsk, my mother's parents came from Riga and Poltava. Each of my contemporaries has at least one drop of Russian blood. You have done a lot for us. The USSR was present at Israel's birth. There were ups and downs in our relations, followed by a break. It seems to me, though, that now there is a kind of revival of ties with your country, partly thanks to emigration from the Soviet Union.

As far as my visit is concerned, its purpose is to establish normal working relations with the Academy of Sciences and other scientific organizations. Individual contacts between scientists from our countries also existed in the past, but now we intend to advance them to official level. I think that our talks are just the beginning of the process of expanding cooperation in different spheres. To ensure that this process develops swiftly and advances, it is necessary to do something that has been pressing for a long time and, in my view, has become a vital necessity: It is necessary to at long last restore normal diplomatic relations between the USSR and Israel. I am convinced that this would be a correct step and in the interests of both countries.

Shamir 'Officials' Reject USSR Peace Role

TA1201093690 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 12 Jan 90 p 1

[Report by David Makovsky]

[Text] Soviet involvement in the Middle East peace process would only "complicate" matters, officials in the Prime Minister's Office said yesterday.

They told THE JERUSALEM POST they had no confidence in the ability of the Soviets to serve as honest brokers in peace negotiations. The officials believed Israel would reject a Soviet role, even if Moscow renewed full diplomatic ties with Israel. The rejection of such a role was based, they said, on Soviet arms sales to hostile countries, such as Syria, Iraq and Libya.

These remarks came one day after the Soviet Union elevated the PLO's Moscow office to embassy status and after Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze indicated to Science Minister 'Ezer Weizman in a Kremlin meeting that he would agree to raise ties with Israel to the level of legation, headed by a charge d'affaires.

Only the U.S. has shown that it can serve as a mediator for peace talks, the officials said.

They rejected a statement made by Foreign Minister Moshe Arens at a recent Knesset Foreign Affairs and

Defence Committee meeting that Moscow was uninterested in the Israeli proposal for elections in the territories, because it prefers an international conference.

The officials said: "The Soviets want to be involved both in the peace process and in elections. Their interest in an international conference reflects their interest in being involved, but they would be willing to back elections, if they were promised a role."

Arens Meets Czech Officials; Visits Planned

TA1101131490 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 11 Jan 90 p 3

[Report by David Makovsky]

[Text] Czechoslovakia will renew ties with Israel within two to three months, and an Israeli delegation will go to Prague within a week, informed sources told THE JERUSALEM POST yesterday after Foreign Minister Moshe Arens met yesterday evening with two Czech officials.

Czechoslovakia and Israel will soon sign "a host of agreements," diplomatic sources said. The officials are in Jerusalem to pave the way for the normalization of relations. It was not clear whether the agreements will be signed before or after the renewal of diplomatic ties.

Dr. Vaclav Jizdny [name as published], the Czech Foreign Ministry official in charge of Middle East affairs, and Josef Dobrovolny, director of the Foreign Trade Ministry, indicated to Arens that Czechoslovakia is willing to sign agreements in the field of economics, industry, tourism, agriculture and culture, diplomatic sources said.

The two refused to answer reporters' questions.

During their stay in Israel this week, Jizdny and Dobrovolny reportedly are examining the site of the former Czech Embassy in Tel Aviv. Czechoslovakia severed relations in 1967.

[Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 11 January in a report by Ilan Bakhar on pages A1 and A2 adds that "yesterday, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens was invited on an official visit to the CSSR. The invitation was extended during a meeting between Arens and Dr. Jizdny, director of the Middle East Department at the CSSR Foreign Ministry; and Mr. Dobrovolny, director of the CSSR Foreign Trade Ministry. Arens accepted the invitation and will leave for Czechoslovakia soon."

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 11 January in a page 6 report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar reports that "the Foreign Ministry has initiated contacts with the new Romanian Government regarding the possibility of Arens visiting Bucharest and meeting the new Romanian foreign minister some time this month. Arens would like to combine this visit to Romania with his trip to Spain and Portugal during the second half of January."]

Arens Blames Egypt for Peace Process Deadlock

TA1201065490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens by announcer Arye Golan on 12 January—live]

[Text] [Golan] Let us start with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's trip to the United States. He will meet with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on 18 January. Do you expect this meeting may shake the political process free of its current deadlock?

[Arens] First of all, I think one should point out the factors holding up the process. It certainly is not Israel, and I really am surprised to hear Israelis saying Israel is the party responsible for tying up the process. This behavior would be understandable if it came from elements hostile to Israel, but when it comes from Israeli ministers, it simply is incomprehensible to me. It also is untrue because, after all, the initiative is our initiative, and the proposal to conduct elections in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip was an Israeli idea, not some U.S. or Egyptian conception. The Egyptians needed more than 1 month to deliver their response to Baker's five-point plan, while Israel answered at once, and apparently the Egyptian reply did not completely satisfy the United States, which did not even want to give us the text of the Egyptian response. To the best of my knowledge, there still is some foot-dragging in the U.S.-Egyptian contacts. We know the reason for this: The Egyptians suddenly assumed the role of the PLO's messenger boy. They simply deliver its messages.

[Golan] Would it be right to say the crux of the dispute hangs on the PLO demand that it, not Egypt or the United States, be the party to announce the composition of the Palestinian delegation?

[Arens] Do you mean the main issue in the disagreement between the United States and Egypt?

[Goren] Yes.

[Arens] That is possible. Mr Baker did not give me any details regarding this. I told Mr Baker, however—and I do not think this was news to him—the problems and obstacles in the process began at that moment, several weeks ago, when the Egyptians—instead of playing an independent role as we would have desired and as they indeed had done at the inception of our peace initiative—announced they simply were transferring messages from the PLO.

[Golan] During your phone conversation this week, did Mr Baker seem to be losing his patience, as rumors spread by the State Department and statements made by Mrs Tutwiler, the State Department spokeswoman, imply?

[Arens] No, I did not receive this impression. On the contrary, I gathered he would be willing to invest efforts in the Middle East as long as Israel and Egypt were

interested in his assistance. As I told you, however, it is clear to Israel there definitely are problems on the Egyptian side, and I think the first condition - I also mentioned this to Mr Baker—necessary to permit the process to continue—at least along the lines of the Baker proposal—is that the Egyptians fulfill their designated role as an independent broker and not the PLO's errand boy. This cannot lead anywhere.

[Golan] I see. Mr Arens, this week you said if this route does not produce some results, we will find other ways. Does the Foreign Ministry have some contingency plan by which Israel unilaterally would declare elections in the territories, announce the date, and tell the Palestinians to come and vote? If the plan failed, the world at least would know we were not to blame.

[Arens] Listen, we are not playing some game to prove we are not the guilty party, although it undeniably is true those who blame us are not contributing to the process. They are not speeding it up, and they certainly do not help Israel's international image. The proposal to conduct elections, however, is one of the four points in Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's plan. We still hope Baker's five points can further the idea of conducting elections, but I think it is clear to all of us Israel will have to find alternative ways to conduct elections if it becomes apparent, as a result of Egypt's position or its unwillingness to adopt an independent role, it is impossible to conduct elections based on Baker's five points.

[Golan] Including a unilateral declaration of elections in the territories?

[Arens] I do not think this is the right moment to spell out the alternatives we can adopt, but I think it is the moment to state unequivocally we will not give up, and we will find other ways to implement it.

[Golan] Did Prime Minister Shamir and Defense Minister Rabin come to any kind of agreement, before Rabin left for Washington, on Israel accepting participation by Palestinian deportees and East Jerusalem Arabs in the Palestinian delegation, if the United States calls off its dialogue with the PLO?

[Arens] I would like to tell you something: The question of composition of the Palestinian delegation never has been discussed during my talks with Mr Baker or throughout our entire correspondence. Again, I simply cannot understand it when Israelis come and say there is disagreement over the question of deportees and others. They proffer they want terrorists who have been deported from the region to participate in the discussions on elections, as though these people are experts on democracy and we need their advice. The matter has not been discussed yet at this stage. It is not a topic of dissension. We have our position: The Israeli Government proposal, which all the ministers are partners to, stipulates the elections will be conducted among the residents of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. One therefore may assume even if the dialogue with the Palestinian delegation is conducted, it will be a dialogue with inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

[Golan] Without any Palestinians living outside the territories who may hold foreign, perhaps European, passports? Would we reject any such arrangement?

[Arens] Look, first of all, one must understand what stands behind these proposals regarding outside Palestinians which, by the way, are PLO proposals; let there be no mistake about this. The PLO would like to turn Israel's peace initiative and the dialogue that would be conducted to prepare for elections into negotiations between Israel and the PLO over a Palestinian state and the right of return, not about elections. Everyone must realize we are talking about the right of return. They want the descendants of Palestinians who left this region in 1948 to participate. Is there one Israeli or one Israeli Government minister who would accept this?

[Golan] There is an Israeli Government minister named Shim'on Peres, who also is vice prime minister, and he said it would be foolish to wreck the peace process over two deportees. How would you answer him?

[Arens] Listen, when he says this, he is pointing an accusing finger at Israel and its government as the party responsible for holding up the peace process. This simply is not true. This subject did not even crop up between me and Mr Baker, and I see no point to these utterances, which do not help the peace process, but merely blacken Israel's image throughout the world. They do not help at all, and I cannot grasp their purpose. Perhaps Mr Peres wants to dissolve the government or threaten to do so. This will not help the process at all.

[Golan] Mr Arens, to sum things up, are you optimistic, considering all the difficulties the negotiation process is encountering? Do you believe elections will be conducted in the territories in our lifetime?

[Arens] I have no doubt elections will be conducted in the territories. I have spoken with many Arab residents of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, and I have seen the idea has taken root. I think, in general, the concept of democratic processes—that virus—has began to appear in the Middle East. It is our fault; we are the carriers of this virus, and I am glad of it, because in a democratic environment, true peace will come.

Foreign Ministry 'Contingency Plan' for Elections

TA1201075890 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 Jan 90 p A1

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] A contingency plan devised in the Foreign Ministry proposes Israel declare elections in the territories as a unilateral move, once it is ascertained there is no chance a preparatory meeting will be conducted in Cairo. A senior source in the foreign minister's office said last night it still is too early to deal with this issue, as contacts

with the United States on improving the assurances still are continuing and Israel is about to transmit to Secretary of State James Baker its comments on the second draft document on assurances the secretary had given Israel. [Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 12 January in a report by David Makovsky and Jonathan Ari'el on pages 1 and 18 adds "officials at the Prime Minister's Office" said yesterday Israel will send its response to the "working draft" prepared by the State Department "within the next few days."]

At the same time, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's announcement 2 days ago in the forum of four that he has no intention of discussing the new proposals with Baker lends further credence to the view, prevailing among members of the top political echelons in Jerusalem and Washington, the current phase is about to die out.

According to the plan, which has won the support of Ministers Dan Meridor and Ehud Olmert, as well as Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein, an election date will be announced, and until then efforts will be renewed to engage in a dialogue with the population in the territories in a bid to secure its cooperation in this matter. The supporters of the proposal estimate the chances of ensuring that cooperation are not particularly good, especially due to the near certain opposition of the PLO in Tunis. They do believe, however, this will reduce international pressure on Israel and allow it to argue it is the PLO sabotaging the peace process.

Israel's opposition to the suggestion the PLO issue the list of Palestinian delegation members officially or semi-officially (through the East Jerusalem press or in intifadah leaflets), and the PLO's objection to authorizing Egypt to publish that list, have led the United States to conclude the peace process is deadlocked.

Senior Likud elements said last night that to date, Egypt has refrained from providing the United States with any list of Palestinian candidates for the delegation, because of the PLO's objection to transmitting the list through a go-between. According to the sources, an understanding can be reached on the inclusion of deportees and East Jerusalem representatives, provided there is no direct or indirect affiliation between that delegation and the PLO.

Peres on Peace Process, Tripartite Meeting

TA1101185590 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and finance minister, by Shlomo Ganor and Yehezqel Ya'aqobi on 11 January—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Excerpt] [Ganor] Good evening, Mr Minister.

[Peres] Good evening.

[Ganor] Mr Peres, the U.S. secretary of state again is warning us he has given up finding ways for a breakthrough in the peace process. The defense minister is leaving tonight for Washington without a reply from the Israeli Inner Cabinet. The Inner Cabinet yesterday concluded its discussion without reaching a resolution. Does the peace process, the Israeli Government peace initiative, exist?

[Peres] I hope it does, although we now are in the final leg before the beginning of one, and I hope this stage will be successful. I believe the chances are far greater than the obstacles. It would be a very grave mistake if we let this process crash.

[Ganor] Can these difficulties you are indicating be solved?

[Peres] I believe they can. I believe all of the obstacles can be removed. Look, we in the Alignment were ready to accept Mubarak's four points [as heard]. I regret we did not. We were willing to accept Baker's five points as presented. Some wanted to add things here and there. I do not see any point to these additions. Nevertheless, neither we nor the Palestinians have any real alternative to what we have started, nor to what now must be concluded.

[Ya'aqobi] There are disagreements between you and the Likud on many issues, for instance, the incorporation of East Jerusalem residents in the elections. I imagine you also disagree on the assurances. The whole issue seems to be stuck, while you appear optimistic. How do you reconcile this?

[Peres] I did not say I am optimistic. I have said I closely watch the clocks and the calendar. Time is running out. I am objectively optimistic. There is no doubt in my mind Israel must make some decisions.

[Ya'aqobi] How much time are you willing to allocate the peace process before you quit the government?

[Peres] This process, just like a train, has stations along the line. Like the train, it is moving toward its final destination. At this time we have to make some decisions concerning the assurances. Papers have to be exchanged, a process that probably will end within several days. After that there will be a need to decide how to form the Palestinian delegation—who will propose it, who will be in it. Only after this, I believe, will there be a reason to conduct the tripartite foreign ministers meeting. These are the next three stations. I believe we will be past the first station within 1 or 2 weeks at the most. Still, there is no firm proposition concerning the way to form the delegation, who should consult whom, who should propose it, who should make the announcement, and so on. I believe this at the momment is the central problem.

[Ganor] When do you think the tripartite meeting will take place?

[Peres] If all goes well, and everything is agreed, it could take place within 4 to 5 weeks. If it does not, the crash will come sooner.

[Ganor] When they meet, the three foreign ministers will need to have the issue of assurances completed. Do you believe the State of Israel, the government, the Inner Cabinet, or even the forum of four will be able to conclude this issue within a week?

[Peres] I believe such a possibility exists.

[Ya'aqobi] You still maintain there is no need for assurances.

[Peres] I know there are Cabinet members who believe they are needed. Fine, they should be given a chance. Had it been up to me, I would have been satisfied with Baker's five points as they are. I am not so sure all these preparations we are busy with right now will apply for very long. If there is a meeting, if there is a dialogue between us and the Palestinians, the whole situation would change. Then we would not need working papers and attorneys. As you well know, you need more lawyers for a divorce than a wedding. You get married when there is an understanding. When you break up, attorneys cannot do much good. We are drafting so many papers in preparation for the meeting. I am not so sure we need them all that much. I believe we already could have started the dialogue. I do not believe one more phrase or one less clause substantially can change the situation.

[Ya'aqobi] Is the Cairo meeting still considered a realistic proposition? Here in Jerusalem there is talk of second thoughts and finding alternative ways for this meeting.

[Peres] Who is talking about it?

[Ganor] Perhaps the Americans...

[Peres] No. I have not heard the Americans have any alternative proposition. I have not heard anyone mention an alternative meeting. There was an alternative proposition, which was negotiations with Jordan. Once this was struck from the agenda, we were left with negotiations with the Palestinians. We will have to negotiate with them. We must allow the Palestinians to find representatives and come for negotiations. I see no reason to postpone it, ignore it, or spread rumors alleging there is an alternative. There is none.

[Ganor] Mr Peres, we hear from Washington the secretary of state is desperate.

[Peres] Yes. That should be a cause of concern for us. The world has a lot of other problems to deal with; there are a lot of other areas of historical importance. I therefore believe we will be making a mistake if we ignore the period we are living in by turning our backs on events. We should not let the forces that potentially can help us—all the sides—despair; we should let them help us enter the new era in the world. It not only is in the United States' interest; it is in our interest, as well not to be pushed into a corner where no one will pay attention to us. [passage omitted]

Washington Cannot 'Wash Its Hands' of Peace Issue

JN1201101190 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
12 Jan 90 p 1

[Editorial: "What Does the U.S. Warning Mean?"]

[Text] Washington cannot clear itself of guilt through its warning to Egypt and Israel 2 days ago it would cope with issues other than the Middle East if the two sides do not reach an understanding on terms of the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue.

It seems Washington's warning came as a prelude to announcing the failure of Baker's plan, which was exploited by Israel to exclude the PLO from the peace process. Israel also tried to make this plan an alternative to the international conference.

As a result of the United States' weak position on Israeli intransigence, Baker's plan has turned into an issue that has wasted much time and effort. It moreover has become clear the chances of its implementation are diminishing day by day because, just as the PLO cannot be ignored, the plan cannot be an alternative to the international conference.

Washington hence cannot use these consequences—which it contributed to—as an acceptable excuse to wash its hands of its responsibility to join the international community to bring about a just and comprehensive peace in the region based on peace for land. Washington should respond to the international will and call for the international conference instead of sticking to Baker's plan, which has turned into a problem.

The winds of change, which blow in several regions of the world and which the U.S. State Department spokesman says should command the U.S. Administration's attention, themselves are warnings Washington should understand while coping with the Middle East issue. It is wrong to believe this issue can be frozen with a warning from Washington or any other side. The Palestinian people's determination to regain their land, exercise their national rights on their soil, and establish real peace in their homeland cannot be affected by warnings or threats. Washington's belief that washing its hands of its responsibilities to the peace process can give Israel the chance to tighten its grip on the occupied land and liquidate the Palestine question has very dangerous implications and will increase the dangers threatening the region.

Washington should know the hands of the clock cannot move backward, and that the Palestinian people cannot be deprived of their rights on their liberated soil while the winds of freedom are blowing toward many nations on our planet.

Reportage on Visit by PLO's Faruq Qaddumi

Meets With Foreign Minister

JN1101193290 Amman Television Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] Prime Minister Mudar Badran today met with Faruq Qaddumi, PLO Political Department chief, who is visiting Amman to coordinate positions on Arab and world developments.

[Begin recording] [Reporter Na'il al-Hurut] The meeting covered Jordan-PLO coordination since the strategic resolution was passed by the Algiers session of the Palestine National council. The resolution aims at bringing peace to the region through Israeli withdrawal from the occupied land. The Jordanian and Palestinian sides, led by Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim and PLO Political Department chief Faruq Qaddumi, met earlier at the Foreign Ministry to coordinate positions prior to the meetings by the end of this month in Tunis of the Arab eight-member committee for supporting the intifadah.

[Al-Qasim] The distance traveled by the PLO during the past year has impressed the world and has had a decided and clear impact in the American and Israeli arenas. The world now knows the only party obstructing progress toward peace is Israel, with its increasingly intransigent and stubborn policies. We hope the peace process will culminate in Palestinian national rights being assured.

[Al-Hurut] How would you assess your talks with the Jordanians during the past 2 days?

[Qaddumi] We are delighted to be in Jordan soon after the positive developments here [parliamentary elections]. As brother peoples, we look to the future with optimism. We look forward to creative cooperation between us to support the intifadah—the main item on our agenda—and to help our people inside the occupied territory hold their ground and keep the intifadah going until Israeli occupation is ended. We have reviewed the past and present with to chart a future based on Arab cooperation and solidarity. The talks I have conducted here with his majesty, the prime minister, and the foreign minister covered these subjects in depth. We will conduct further such talks to promote Arab solidarity and, by extension, the intifadah in the interest of a fair solution assuring Palestinian national rights.

[Al-Hurut] Na'il al-Hurut from the Prime Ministry. [end recording]

Meets Prime Minister

JN1101165090 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic
1450 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] Prime Minister Mudar Badran met with Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, at noon today at the Prime Ministry. Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, attended.

Cooperation between Jordan and the PLO was discussed during the meeting. This cooperation aims at promoting the Palestinian policy espoused by the PLO since the Palestine National Council's strategic decision in Algiers to make a positive and effective contribution to ending the instability in the region and instituting a lasting, just, and comprehensive peace based on international legitimacy; namely, Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and achievement of the Palestinian people's right of self-determination.

The meeting was attended by Hayil 'Abd-al-Hamid, member of the Fatah Central Committee, and 'Umar al-Khatib, minister plenipotentiary at the Palestine embassy in Amman.

Paper Praises 'Realistic View'

JN1101090490 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 11 Jan 90 p 1

[Editorial: "Talks Between Brothers"]

[Text] We completely agree with PLO political department chief Faruq Qaddumi's statement yesterday that his visit to Jordan is a visit to brothers. The talks during such a visit naturally are talks between brothers dealing with all issues concerning and challenging them.

Qaddumi again reminded us Jordan's steadfastness at the longest frontline with the enemy, the current circumstances of the Arab region, and the Palestine question would make these talks exteremly important, and that the PLO always has shown a desire for peace through its known initiative, against which the United States and Israel have stood.

Mr Qaddumi emphasized the PLO's right to name and declare the Palestinian delegation to any peace talks, without any party having a right to object. This is a legitimate PLO right in line with international norms; it cannot possibly be disputed by any party. Qaddumi's view that a long, hard struggle is the way to attain Palestinian national rights on Palestinian soil also is a realistic view. The heroic intifadah in the occupied territories, which has entered its 26th month, undoubtedly is one of this struggle's vehicles.

Also falling within this realistic view is Mr Qaddumi's emphasis on convening the international conference and the unsuitability of Baker's plan as a substitute for the conference. Qaddumi also did not conceal his doubts about the plan's success. This means the Palestinian viewpoint continues to consider the international conference the necessary element to achieve peace.

What basically characterizes talks between brothers is mutual confidence, common pan-Arab commitment, and eagerness to confront challenges. All these always are present in the Jordanian-Palestinian talks; they constitute one of the most positive pan-Arab models.

'Awn Assails U.S. Administration

NC1001150490 (Clandestine) The Lebanese Radio in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] At 1000 today, Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn received a delegation of Lebanese youth residing in the United States. They reviewed the Lebanese situation in light of the current U.S. Administration [as heard]. The delegation members also discussed the setting up of a national bureau for collective coordination in the United States, to be opened after tomorrow, Friday, to support Lebanon and the march of freedom and construction.

Afterward, Gen 'Awn delivered a speech, criticizing the U.S. Administration, which is holding Panamanian General Noriega on charges of drug trafficking and turning a blind eye on Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's regime that is exporting drugs to the United States across the Lebanese land it is occupying.

General 'Awn said: The U.S. Administration knows very well, from documented evidence, that the regime of Hafiz al-Asad is making billions of dollars from hashish and other narcotics in Lebanon's al-Biqa' plain. Yet the U.S. Administration has good diplomatic ties with this regime.

'Awn explained that there is a big difference between the U.S. Administration, that ignores human rights, and the noble American people. He said: The American people hate dictatorial and Syrian regimes. Why does this discrepancy exist between the U.S. Administration and the people? We know that the 1989 Lebanese war has been the fiercest and the most violent and that the Lebanese people have paid the price, yet the NEW YORK MAGAZINE does not report the Lebanese war. American media are not allowed to report Lebanon's good news. This prompts us to wonder if the U.S. Administration and the press are a form of a media mafia, and do not represent freedom of international media. Rather, it is we who represent freedom of media in the world.

'Awn added: Why were the American diplomats afraid and left Lebanon? Because they could not face the Lebanese people with the facts and evidence. The U.S. ambassador could not answer Gen 'Awn's questions, when he asked him: Why do you behave this way? The ambassador looked for an excuse and left, saying that 1,000 Lebanese demonstrated outside the embassy.

General 'Awn said: I assert that the last 10 years of the 20th Century will not end before the free and corrupt regimes have fallen as did the Communist regimes. We discover every day that these regimes that claim to be free are fake.

Israelis Bring Troops, Tanks Into South

NC1101164990 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] Our correspondent in the south reported that the Israeli occupation forces have brought columns of half-tracked vehicles and tanks into the occupied border strip.

Reports indicated that the enemy forces have dispatched approxiamtely 150 troops and many vehicles to the Eastern sector. The reports said the vehicles crossed al-Mtullah gate yesterday evening, Wednesday, and headed to [place name indistinct], Kawkaba, and Zaghlah. A similar force took the al-'Ayshiyah-Kafr Shima-[Name indistinct] road.

The (?operation) was supervised by General [first name indistinct] Peled, commander of the northern region.

Our correspondent also reported that senior officers of the enemy forces have visited the occupation forces and agent militia's advanced positions.

Army Positions in Beirut Come Under Fire

NC1201102890 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] Army positions on the Primo-al-Barjawi-Ra's al-Nab' combat line [in Beirut] came under machinegun and rocket fire between 1110 and 1125 today. Machinegun fire was earlier exchanged on the al-Tayyunah combat line.

Paper on 'Secret' Agreement for Syrian Pullout

NC1101185190 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] The Kuwaiti paper AL-QABAS today disclosed what it described as a secret written agreement signed by the Syrian and Saudi foreign ministers on behalf of the tripartite Arab committee. In the agreement, Syria promises to withdraw its troops from Lebanon in two phases. Perhaps this is the pledge Phalangist Party leader Dr George Sa'adah was referring to earlier when he mentioned international promises made in this respect.

According to the details of the AL-QABAS report, the secret written agreement was signed for Syria by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and by Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal, on behalf of the tripartite Arab committee. The agreement contains the first authentic Syrian pledge obliging Damascus to pull out its troops from Lebanon in two stages.

AL-QABAS, which publishes the full text of the agreement, says this secret and unpublished agreement is an official document that was signed in Damascus on 20 October 1989, during al-Faysal's visit to the Syrian capital. It was deemed to be a secret annex to the al-Ta'if

agreement, which was endorsed by the Lebanese deputies on 22 October. The Kuwaiti paper adds that diplomats of the tripartite committee member states have confirmed the authenticity of the agreement.

Fatah Ordered To Respond 'Forcefully' to Attack

NC1101203490 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] AFP reported this evening that Fatah has reinforced its positions in Iqlim al-Tuffah during the ferocious battles that have taken place between Amal Movement and Hizballah. AFP said that more arms and ammunition have been sent to the area.

Citing its correspondent in the south, AFP says that the commander of the Palestinian force deployed in Iqlim al-Tuffah has received strict orders to retaliate forcefully to any attack on his force.

AFP added that the mediation Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Muhammad 'Ali Besharati between Amal and Hizballah is colliding with Hizballah's refusal to withdraw from the positions it occupied in Iqlim al-Tuffah.

Hizballah Denies Killing, Wounding Fatah Members

NC1201075190 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] Guarded calm, interrupted by sporadic gunfire, prevails along the Iqlim al-Tuffah combat lines. According to the latest reports, the 'Arafat groups have brought in reinforcements for their positions.

An official Hizballah source has denied that Hizballah personnel killed a Fatah member and wounded three others in the Hamadah hill.

A Fatah source had announced that one of its members was killed and three wounded when they were fired on by Hizballah.

Iran's Besharati Meets Muslim Officials in Lebanon

LD1001205590 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] A number of Lebanese and Palestinian Muslim ulema yesterday met Mr Besharati, senior deputy minister of foreign affairs, who is in Beirut at the head of a delegation to settle differences between Amal and the Hezballah Revolutionary Movement.

According to Islamic Revolution News Agency, Shaykh Ahmad Husayn, the judge of Sidon, Shaykh Mahir Hammud of the Assembly of Muslim Ulema, and Shaykh 'Abdullah Hallaq of the Palestinian clerics were present at the meeting. The need for ending the Amal-Hezballah encounters was stressed. It was also stressed that the two parties must settle their differences through negotiation and that all the struggling forces must unite against the Zionist regime.

Shaykh 'Ali Haydar 'Ali Husayni, and Mustafa Irani, from among former officials of Amal, yesterday afternoon met Mr Besharati in separate sessions. They thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for its efforts to solve the problems of Lebanon and to end the encounters of Amal and the Hezballah Revolutionary Movement of Lebanon.

Besharati on Amal-Hizballah Fighting

NC1001194790 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Excerpts] Brother 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, deputy foreign minister, received in Beirut today a group of Ba'labakk and al-Biqa' clans, who evaluated highly Iran's efforts to settle the disputes between the Islamic forces and its concern for Lebanon's causes. [passage omitted]

Besharati noted Iran's efforts to end the fighting and disputes between the struggling Lebanese factions.

He said: At this stage, where a cease-fire was reached between the Amal Movement and Hizballah, we must find a radical solution for the disputes that will prevent their recurrence in future. He added that Iran deplores the bloodshed between brothers.

Brother Besharati stressed that, after the implementation of the cease-fire agreement and the withdrawals, the Palestinian forces that entered Iqlim al-Tuffah during these battles must leave the area.

Amal Official: Besharati Efforts Yield No Results

NC1101192990 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad 'Ali Besharati is continuing his consultations in an effort to solve the regrettable conflict between the Amal Movement and Hizballah in Iqlim al-Tuffah.

Meanwhile, His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council, received Hoseyn Niknam, charge d'affaires at the Iranian Embassy in Beirut, this evening. They reviewed the latest developments with regard to ending the present situation in Iqlim al-Tuffah.

In the meantime, skirmishes involving automatic weapons are continuing between Amal and Hizballah fighters on the Kafr Hatta-Jurnaya and Jarju'-Kafr Milki combat lines.

In this connection, Dr Muhammad Baydun, member of the Amal Movement Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of the South, said today that the Iqlim al-Tuffah battle is designed to bring back lawlessness to the south and to divest the south of its people, as happened in 1979 and 1982.

In an interview with Radio Lebanon, Dr Baydun said that Israel wants this plan to succeed so that it can bring at least 1 million Soviet Jews to the area. Dr Baydun

stated that the Amal Movement wants the legitimate authority to be in chage of security in the south. He called on President al-Hirawi to formulate a plan to liberate the south from the Israeli enemy.

Dr Baydun said that Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Besharati is making endeavors on the instructions of and according to the ruling issued by Sayyed 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Iranian revolution, aimed at achieving an immediate cease-fire and a withdrawal of all parties to their former positions. He said: We emphasize our commitment to this decision. However, Besharati's endeavors have not yet achieved any results.

Sit-in Staged at Paris Embassy; Statement Issued

NC1101184190 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] When the Voice of Lebanon telephoned the Lebanese Embassy in Paris this evening, we were informed that the sit-in inside the embassy offices is open-ended.

Those staging the sit-in issued a statement in which they underlined four points. One: They reject all attempts to fragment the institutions. Two: They are ready to resist the economic and political siege imposed on the eastern areas. Three: They support General Michel 'Awn absolutely, clearly, and explicitly, as well as any resistance against the Syrian occupation throughout Lebanon. Four: They express solidarity with those staging the sit-in in B'abda.

We also learned that Ambassador Fu'ad al-Turk left the embassy building without defining his position on the sit-in, according to one of the organizers of the demonstration. The French police have not intervened so far, but have stepped up their patrols in Victor Hugo Street, where the embassy is situated.

Vatican Envoy Puente Clarifies Statement

NC1101112090 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] Papal Nuncio Pablo Puente called on Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni and Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss today and discussed current developments in Lebanon.

Puente affirmed that the Vatican's position on al-Ta'if document is known and has been announced. He denied in a written statement that he called for legal dialogue [hiwar qanuni] among the Lebanese. He maintained that there was a mistake in the translation of his remarks. What he had called for was a local dialogue [hiwar mahalli] among the Lebanese.

More on Statement

NC1101150890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi received Papal Nuncio in Lebanon Pablo Puente and then invited him to lunch today.

The papal nuncio visited visited Speaker Husayn al-Husayni and Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss earlier.

After his meeting with Speaker al-Husayni, Puente denied that he had called for a legal dialogue [hiwar qanuni] among the Lebanese. He indicated that his remarks had been translated erroneously. He said that what he meant was a sincere dialogue [hiwaran mukhlisan].

He said his visit with Speaker al-Husayni was within the context of the Vatican's interest in a dialogue between the Christians and Muslims.

Asked if he is indirectly mediating between President al-Hirawi and 'Awn, Nuncio Puente said: This [mediation] is a strong word, but I can say that I am at everyone's disposal and I am doing everything I can to find a solution. Naturally, the pope has asked me to do everything in my power to achieve reconciliation.

Ja'ja' Explains Call For Federalism

NC1001135090 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' has declared his readiness to submit all aspects of his plan for federalism whenever the majority of the parties express their readiness to sit at a table and start a dialogue for this purpose. He stressed that his plan is not a diversion and must be accompanied by a dialogue. Federalism is a difficult solution; it is complicated plan, not a simple one, he stated.

At a news conference at 1230 today, Dr Ja'ja' stressed that the real problem is how to reorganize Lebanon. The first step on the road to a solution is to acknowledge the reality of the situation. The Muslims and the Christians have been engaged in a struggle for 50 years and it would be a crime to overlook this.

At his news conference, Ja'ja' explained the concepts of federalism and partition and the difference between the two. He stressed that federalism does not mean partition and that federalism preserves Lebanon as one state within its internationally recognized borders. Authority will devolve to the districts and governorates, as is the case in Germany, Switzerland, and the United States. Partition would lead to two separate and independent states.

Dr Ja'ja' said the abrogation of political sectarianism would be tantamount to giving a signal for the start of confrontation among the Lebanese communities.

Afghanistan

Hekmatyar Warns U.S. Against 'Interference'

BK1001034790 Lahore THE NATION in English 8 Jan 90 p 1

["From our correspondent"]

[Text] Islamabad—Golbuddin Hekmatyar, chief of Hezb-e Eslami Afghanistan, has condemned the decision of the French Government to reopen its mission in Kabul. He also warned the United States to refrain from interference into the affairs of Mujahidin.

Addressing a news conference here at his office on Sunday [7 January], he said the Americans "have no right to advise us." These champions of democracy want us to have a nominated Shura (consultative body) which clearly suggests the double standards of the United States.

He revealed that he had talks with the AIG [Afghan interim government] leaders on Sunday to finalise the plans for holding elections for a new government. He did not reveal as to where the meeting was held.

Hekmatyar had resigned from the Afghan Interim Government as Foreign Minister a few months ago. Mr Hekmatyar, however, was hopeful that differences among the leaders of Peshawar-based seven parties would be over during the coming weeks.

Mr Hekmatyar favours elections on party basis and on proportional representation, while Prof Sebghatullah Mojaddedi, the AIG President, wants partyless polls.

To a question, he said he could rejoin the AIG if his condition of holding the elections on party basis is accepted.

He said that a nominated Shura could never evolve consensus among the resistance groups and that only solution to the 'problem' is elections.

He pointed out that during the past, various nominated Shuras had been formed both by the governments in Kabul and by the Afghan Mujahidin which, he said, could not server any purpose.

He said the foreign countries should stop interference in Afghanistan. He was confident that soon the Afghan Army would revolt against Najib.

He said in this case, his party would support the Afghan Army.

Official Meets Delegation for Soviet Prisoners

LD1101200390 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Excerpts] A Soviet People's Committee delegation for saving Soviet prisoners of war in Afghanistan headed by Andronov, now in Kabul, met this afternoon with Kamaloddin Eshaqzai, chairman of the National Mediation Commission. [passage omitted]

The Soviet side expressed enormous thanks for the efforts made by the Government and people of the Republic of Afghanistan and by President Najibollah in particular for the release of Soviet prisoners of war from the hands of the opposition. [passage omitted]

Najibullah Attends Security Ministry Ceremony

LD1101183590 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Excerpts] Esteemed Najibullah, president, and supreme commander of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, took part today in a ceremony marking the 10th anniversary of the founding of the State Security Ministry. The BIA military section reports that on arrival, esteemed Najibullah was welcomed by Lieutenant general Gholam Faruq Ya'qubi, minister of state security, and the leadership of the ministry. [passage omitted]

Later, a meeting was held in the hall of the Department of Political Affairs of the State Security Ministry. It was attended by Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers; Lieutenant General Shahnawaz Tanay, minister of defense; Lieutenant General Muhammad Aslam Watanjar, minister of interior; Major General 'Abdul Haq Ulumi, deputy to the Supreme Council of the Defense of the Homeland; Farid Ahmad Mazdak, member of the Politburo and secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] Central Committee; Lieutenant General 'Abdul Qadir 'Aka, high commander of the air and air defense forces, and the leadership and personnel of the State Security Ministry. [passage omitted]

Lt Gen Gholam Faruq Ya'qubi presented the basic report to the meeting on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the founding of the State Security Ministry and on the activities of the personnel and bodies of the ministry, which have been carried out toward ensuring peace in the country, realizing the national reconciliation policy, and serving the homeland and people. [passage omitted]

Esteemed Najibullah delivered his directive speech on the occasion. He explained the further duties and responsibilities of the personnel of the ministry in the realization of the aims of the national reconciliation policy, the establishment of legality, ensuring immunity and freedom to the subjects of the Republic of Afghanistan, ensuring peace and security in the country, and foiling conspiracies and plots by the enemies of the national interest of Afghanistan.

Maj Gen Muhammad Araf Sakhra, on behalf of the personnel of the Ministry of State Security, expressed thanks for the directive speech delivered by Esteemed Najibullah and pledged his comprehensive readiness to implement the goals of the national reconciliation policy and to fulfill the duties entrusted to the ministry.

The minister of state security then pinned the medal of the 10th anniversary of the ministry on esteemed Najibollah's chest. Esteemed Najibullah then presented medals of the 10th anniversary of the ministry to Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, Lt Gen Shahnawaz Tanay, Lt Gen Muhammad Aslam Watanjar, Maj Gen 'Abdul Haq Ulumi, Lt Gen Abdul Qadir 'Aka, as well as to officials of the special court of national security and special prosecutor office of national security. He also presented banners of hero of the Republic of Afghanistan to the commanders of Unit 731 of State Security of Balkh Province and Unit 33 of the General Command of the Special Guard. [passage omitted]

42 Kabul Soldiers Killed in Separate Attacks

BK1201030890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin attacked a Kabul regime military convoy carrying supplies and reinforcements along the Aybak-(Shah Qurban) Highway in Samangan Province yesterday, killing seven members of the militia, destroying two military vehicles, and capturing five soldiers with their weapons. In the same area, the mujahidin also killed 3 soldiers and wounded 15 others.

In another operation, four soldiers were captured and two tanks were damaged.

In yet another clash between the mujahidin and Kabul regime forces in Aybak Town, 32 soldiers were killed and 18 wounded. A Khad [Afghan secret police] office in the town was also destroyed during the clash.

Mujahidin Intercept Supply Caravan in Lowgar

BK1101142890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] According to reports from Afghanistan, the mujahidin on Tuesday [9 January] intercepted a supply caravan of the Kabul regime at (Dasht-e Saqawa) in Lowgar Province. Reports say that the Kabul administration had deployed several military contingents at (Abazet) and (Saudagar) to ensure the caravan's safe journey.

This was the second attempt by the Kabul regime to send supplies to the besieged city of Gardeyz. Another attempt was made in April last year and was thwarted by the mujahidin.

PAYAM Interviews State Security Minister

LD1201071190 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0451 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 11 BAKHTAR—State Security Ministry encharges have concluded ceasefire protocols with 351 armed opposition groups consisting of 31,140 persons and have started talks with 352 others numbering 27,250 persons since the proclamation of national reconciliation policy in 1987, says Ghulam Faruq Ya'qubi, minister of state security in an interview with a correspondent of daily PAYAM on Jan 10, 1990.

A destructive war has been imposed on our country since ten years. During this period, revolution has revealed various kinds of faces of internal and foreign spies who at the behest of intelligence services of a number of war-mongering countries, particularly CIA and ISI of Pakistan and Saudi Arabia intelligence service, committed plunder, arson, destruction etc in our country, he stressed.

Totally 250 foreigners illegally entered to our territory have been arrested. The ministry plays great role in defendence of independence, territorial integrity and national sovereignty of the country since the withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan. The ministry has intensified its struggle against secret organizations, bands, foreign mercenaries, saboteurs, destructors, extremists and rooting out of armed extremists, Ya'qubi emphasized.

As a result of the efforts of the ministry 168 opposition groups consisting of 22,320 armed and 39,000 unarmed men come over to the government side, besides, contacts have been maintained with 122 other groups consisting of about 16,690 persons, 9,300 families having 45,200 persons as well as 1,900 individual have returned home from the alien lands.

The personnel of the ministry, since the past ten months, have seized 350 pieces of heavy and light arms including ground-to-ground and ground-to-air rocket launchers and over 5,000 kg explosives and 29 foreigners who have entered to the Afghan territory illegally for destruction, collection information on military purposes have been arrested. The personnel of the ministry have taken active part in clearing up operations around Kabul city to prevent rocket firing of extremists, Salang high-way, Qandahar Province, Jalalabad city, Khowst grand district, and have bought about 100 various types of rockets, 12 rocket launchers, 12 wireless sets and discovered over 80 cases of embezzelment, sabotage etc.

One of the most important goal of the imperialistic undeclared war against Afghanistan is a full-scale cold or psychologic war carrying on by Western as well as regional intelligence services, particularly CIA.

Training and equipping of spies and smuggling them to the Afghan territory for destruction, firing rockets, terror, blockade of high-way and invasion on cities are also part of such war, he added.

At present "five column" of the Afghan enemies are included secret bands and organizations and spies of hostile countries. Recently the ministry has discovered and foiled a secret plot of Gulbuddin against the government.

In order to intensify ever further this psychological war against Afghanistan, over 120 newspapers, magazines, weeklies and other publications, four radio stations, four campaign centres belonging to the West and regional news networks, have publications against the RA [Republic of Afghanistan] G.F. Ya'qubi concluded.

Rockets, Missiles Seized From 'Extremist Forces'

LD1201070990 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0530 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 11, BAKHTAR—Different contingents of the Kabul garrison today carried out mopping up operations in Shakar Darreh district, north of Kabul Province aimed at preventing the terroristic and criminal acts of the Pakistani backed extremist forces, reported BAKHTAR military correspondent.

During this combing operations 6 surface-to-surface Sacker-30 rockets, 6 ground-to-ground missiles, 16 boxes of different types of bullets, 60 mortar shells and a large number of other assorted weapons were seized there by the armed forces.

Besides, more than 150 thousand AFS [expansion not given] were distributed over a number of those families damaged by the extremists rocket attacks on Jan. 10, 1990 by the anti-emergency incidences dept of the Council of Ministers in Kabul today.

These damaged families thanked the government timely assistances and strongly condemned U.S.-Pakistani backed extremists barbaric attacks on civilian targets.

Bangladesh

PRC Goods Exchange Barter Protocol Signed

BK0801132690 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] Bangladesh and China signed 12th barter protocol in Dhaka Monday [8 January] stipulating each way exchange of goods worth $31 million. Under the protocol, Bangladesh will export (?crushed) and finished leather, raw jute and jute goods, tea, tobacco, GI [galvanized iron] pipe, super enamelled copper wares, stainless razor blades, and tea processing machinery. The items to be imported from China include machinery equipment and spare parts, light industrial products, dyes and chemicals, diesel HS [high speed] power tillers, steel billets, [word indistinct] coal, pig iron, refractory materials, scientific and surgical instruments.

Ershad Receives Pakistani Air Force Chief

BK0801133090 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] The visiting Pakistan Air Force chief, Air Chief Marshal Hakimullah, paid a courtesy call on President Ershad at his office in Dhaka Monday [8 January] morning. He stayed with the president for some time.

The chief of air staff, Air Vice Marshal Mumtazuddin Ahmed; the principal staff officer to the supreme commander, Major General Abdul Latif; and acting high commissioner of Pakistan, Mahbub Ali Khan, were present.

Authorities Close 3 Colleges After Campus Clashes

BK0801061290 Hong Kong AFP in English 0539 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] Dhaka, Jan 8 (AFP)—The authorities have shut down three Bangladesh colleges after campus clashes between opposition student groups left 19 students injured and 12 dormitory rooms burnt, press reports here said Monday [8 January].

The 12 dormitory rooms were set on fire and personal effects of the resident students damaged during the day-long clashes Sunday at Devendra Government College in central Manikganj District, the mass circulation daily ITTEFAQ reported.

It added at least 19 activists of both the rival student groups—Jatiyatabadi Chatra Dal (JCD) and Bangladesh Chatra League (BCL)—were injured.

The paper gave no reason for the violence but said the authorities closed the campus for an unannounced period.

But other reports said Sunday's fighting was a sequel to the previous day's scuffles between activists of the two groups over payment disputes at a restuarant near the campus. The condition of three of the injured, including two local JCD leaders, was reported to be serious at a district hospital.

JCD is the student front of the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) of Begum Khaleda Zia while Sheikh Hasina Wajed's Awami League (AL) backs the BCL. Both the BNP and AL are former ruling parties ousted by coups and are also traditional political rivals.

In northeastern Sylhet, similar clashes between local JCD members and a faction of the BCL Sunday led to the closure of the town's two government colleges for three days, press reports said, adding no injuries were reported.

Both the colleges reopened only a week ago after a forced closure for three months following armed clashes between activists of the BCL and Islamic Chatra Shibir, student wing of the rightist Jamaat-e-Islami party.

Armed rivalries between student groups have been on the rise in recent months in Bangladesh and have claimed 21 lives since August when renewed violence flared in several universities, colleges and schools, according to student sources. They said more than 450 were wounded during the period.

In the last bloody clashes at new year, two student activists were killed and 20 others injured when rival opposition groups clashed at Fatikchari Town near the southeastern port city of Chittagong.

India

Spokesman Comments on Pakistani Envoy's Visit

BK1201062090 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] An official spokesman in New Delhi today remarked that the visit of the Pakistani special envoy, Mr Abdul Sattar, to India has helped in clarifying the matters between the two countries. He was reacting to questions from newsmen whether Mr Sattar's visit had yielded any positive results. The spokesman said New Delhi's point of view has been put forward before the envoy who has promised to convey it faithfully to the Pakistani Government and the prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto.

Trade Protocol for 1990 Signed With USSR

BK1101092090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] India and the Soviet Union have signed a trade protocol for this year [which] envisages a turn of over 8,800 crore rupees. An announcement in Moscow said that the turnover target shows an increase of 200 crore rupees over the previous year's figures.

Under the protocol, the Soviet Union will import from India goods worth over 5,000 crore rupees.

Minister Discusses Cooperation With Soviet Envoy

BK1201095490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] The finance minister, Professor Madhu Dandavate, has said that the government will maintain and expand economic and commercial cooperation with the Soviet Union. This assurance was given by the minister when the Soviet ambassador in India, Mr V.F. Isakov, called on him in New Delhi today. It was also decided at the meeting that a high-level Soviet delegation will soon visit India to discuss revision of ruble-rupee protocol in joint ventures in the Soviet Union.

Singh Suggests Measures To Resolve Punjab Issue

BK1101164790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, has announced a package of measures as part of the government's intiatives to restore peace in Punjab. This includes setting up of special courts for the trial of those responsible for the 1984 riots, honorable means of livelihood for the riot widows, rehabilitation of those Army persons who left their barracks on emotional stress, remunerative prices for agricultural produce, and judicial probe into the death of the Akali Dak-Mann MP [Member of Parliament] Mr Jagdev Singh Khudiyan.

The prime minister said that the National Front government may rule or not, but it will not indulge in any such activities which may create a communal divide among the people.

Addressing the all-party rally in Ludhiana this afternoon, he said during his last visit to Punjab about a month back he got an opportunity to personally witness the love and affection of the people and pangs of pain they are suffering for the past many years now. Mr V.P. Singh said the Punjab problem can be solved only with an open heart and the nation is prepared to make any sacrifice for the restoration of peace and harmony in the state. Mr V.P. Singh said Punjab belongs to the whole nation, for whose glory it has made many sacrifices, and in its hour of need today, the whole nation stands as a rock behind it.

The AIR [All India Radio] special correspondent, P.J.S. Trehan, reports that the prime minister received an affectionate welcome when he greeted the people in the traditional Sikh salutation of: Jo Bole Sonihal.

Others who addressed the rally included the deputy prime minister, Mr Devi Lal; the home minister, Mr Mufti Muhammad Sayeed; the external affairs minister, Mr I.K. Gujral; the CPI [Communist Party of India] leader, Mr Avtar Singh Malhotra; the Akali Dal-Longowal leader, Mr Surjeet Singh Barnala; the Akali Dal-Badal leader, Mr Prakash Singh Badal; the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader, Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee; and the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] leader, Mr Harkrishan Singh Surjeet.

The all-party rally, in a resolution, appreciated the steps taken by the National Front government and its intiative to evolve a national consensus for finding a political solution to the Punjab problem. The rally also called for immediate stoppage of bloodshed and terror and for ensuring the security of life and property and the respect for human right. It urged the central government to take immediate steps to involve all parties and organizations on national and state levels.

It may be mentioned that the Congress-I, the AIADMK [All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam], the Muslim League, the National Conference, and the Akali Dal-Mann boycotted the rally.

The Akali Dal-Mann president, Mr Simranjit Singh Mann, has put forth eight suggestions to create a conducive atmosphere for a meaningful dialogue on the Punjab problem. He presented a memorandum listing the suggestions to Mr V.P. Singh before he flew back to Delhi after the Ludhiana rally. The suggestions include immediate changes in the state administrative machinery and withdrawing paramilitary forces from the state and withdrawal of all oppressive laws and regulations and an end to what he described as fake encounters.

Earlier, talking to newsmen, Mr Mann has described the prime minister's visit to Punjab as great, which had gladdened the hearts of the people.

Akali Dal Welcomes Prime Ministers Announcements

BK1201065790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Excerpts] The Shiromani Akali Dal [religious-political party] has welcomed the prime minister's announcements about setting up special courts for trying the guilty in the riots in Delhi in November 1984 and about rehabilitation of the riot victims and of the deserter Army personnel. As already reported, the prime minister, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, while addressing an all-party rally in Ludhiana yesterday, announced a package of measures to restore peace in Punjab. [passage omitted]

On board the plane on his way back to New Delhi [from Ludhiana rally, the prime minister indicated to newsmen that the government would keep on inviting the Congress-I for the all-party meetings on Punjab as the National Front government's policy is that of reconciliation. Expressing satisfaction about the Ludhiana rally, Mr Singh said the government will go to the masses to gain their confidence.

The Congress-I says it will reconsider its commitment to constructive cooperation with the National Front government if it does not change its style of functioning.

Proposed Broadcasting Corporation 'Autonomous'

BK0501161990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 5 Jan 90

[Text] The government says that it will not exercise control over the proposed broadcasting corporation. The information and broadcasting minister, Mr P. Upendra, said this in New Delhi today while inaugurating a seminar on autonomy to All India Radio and Doordarshan [television]. He said the corporation will be truly autonomous and accountable to the parliament and therefore to the people.

Taking part in the discussion at the seminar, the former information and broadcasting minister, Mr Vasant Sathe, said the bill provides for several governors on the board of the corporation creating a stage within a stage. Mr V.G. Verghese, who headed the earlier Akash Bharati Committee [on autonomy of radio and television], in 1977 dismissed the contention, saying that the appointment of the governor will be done by the president on the recommendation of three eminent people.

Noted journalist Mr Khushwant Singh expressed the hope that the bill would bring functional autonomy to the professionals in the electronic media, who were an excellent lot but were not allowed to express themselves.

Talks on Assam Issue Ends; No Concrete Results

BK1101133690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] The third round of talks on the Bodo [tribal people] problem in Assam ended in New Delhi today without yielding any concrete results. It was, however, agreed that the talks will continue next month. The president of the All Bodo Students Union, Mr Upendra Brahma, led the 16-member Bodo delegation, and the Assam government delegation was headed by the chief minister, Mr Prafulla Kumar Mahanta. The labor and welfare minister, Mr Ram Vilas Paswan, represented the central government at the talks.

Later, Mr Brahma said that while they are satisfied that some progress has been made at the talks, they are firm on their demand for a separate state. Mr Mahanta categorically stated that he is opposed to any further division of the state. He said the state government will, however, be willing to consider any other legal, administrative, and political arrangement acceptable to all sections of the people of Assam.

Mr Ram Vilas Paswan suggested the setting up of a small group consisting of representatives of the center, the state government, the All Bodo Students Union, the Bodo People's Action Committee, the All Bodo Employees Federation, and the All Assam Tribal Women's Welfare Federation to consider various demands of the Bodos and suggest concrete measures.

Police Apprehend Parliament House Bomber

BK1101160890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] The Delhi police have nabbed a dreaded terrorist who was in the capital with the intention of blowing up the parliament house and the AIR [All India Radio] and television offices. A police press release said that the terrorist, Jaftar Singh, was caught yesterday. On a tip-off, the police detectives spotted him near a cinema hall on Roshnara Road and overpowered him.

Police Arrest 19 for Srinagar Shooting Incidents

BK1101162390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir police arrested 19 persons in connection with today's cross-firing incidents at (Rajourikadal) and (Safedkadal) areas of Srinagar. Incidents of arson and a number of bomb blasts since last evening caused damage to government buildings in different parts of the valley. In Srinagar, the central passport office and a handicraft center were set ablaze. Reports of violence have also come in during the curfew relaxation period this morning. The Army continues to patrol the town. The curfew continues in Sopor and Bijbehara towns.

Milaitants, Security Men Clash in Jammu, Kashmir

BK1201011690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1919 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] Srinagar, India, Jan 11 (AFP)—Clashes between suspected Moslem militants and security men left 45 people injured and six schools and a government office

buildings in northern Jammu and Kashmir gutted Thursday [11 January], officials said.

Meanwhile, security forces shot dead two alleged border intruders from Pakistan elsewhere in the state, the officials here said.

The fresh violence took place when a curfew was relaxed in Srinagar, the state's summer capital, and Baramula, Anantnag and Pulwama, all in the Moslem-dominated Kashmir valley.

Some 21 suspects were taken into custody after Moslem gunmen exchanged fire with paramilitary Kashmir armed police and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in Srinagar's Rajouri Kadal and Nawakadal areas, the officials said.

Militants set off three bombs—two in Srinagar and one in Baramula—which damaged three buildings, but no one was killed or injured.

The separatists, who are opposed to the only Moslem-majority Indian state's accession to India after the 1947 independence and partition of the sub-continent, also threw stones at security forces in the four towns.

The officials said 45 people, including some 30 troopers, were injured, eight seriously, after Thursday's incidents.

Fires started by petrol bombs thrown by the separatists gutted half a dozen schools and one census department building in Srinagar, Anangtnag and Pulwama areas, the officials said. They did not report any casualties.

Indian forces shot dead two unidentified men when they entered Jammu and Kashmir through the border from Pakistan early Thursday, violating a curfew imposed along the frontier, the officials said.

Some 10 people have died in Moslem militancy-linked violence in Jammu and Kashmir this year.

UN Envoy: Jammu, Kashmir Events 'Internal Matter'

BK1201032490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] India has made it clear that what happens in Jammu and Kashmir is strictly an internal matter which brooks no outside interference. India's acting permanent representative to the United Nations, Mr Prabhakar Menon, was commenting on remarks made by a UN spokesman during a briefing on Wednesday [10 January]. Mr Menon said as is well-known, Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India and whatever happens there is strictly India's internal affair.

Over 500 BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] volunteers staged a dharna [sit-in] at Churchgate railway station in Bombay yesterday, demanding dissolution of the Farooq Abdullah ministry in Jammu and Kashmir. They also demanded the repeal of Article 370 of the Constitution giving special status to the state and a judicial inquiry into the kidnapping of Dr Rubina Sayeed [daughter of home minister]. A party spokesman said that a memorandum was submitted to the state governor, Mr K.Brahmananda Reddy.

In Srinagar, two buildings in Rajbagh [were] damaged in a bomb blast last night. Two shops and an oil tanker were also set ablaze.

Meanwhile, the curfew in Srinagar has been relaxed for 4 hours from 0500 this morning. The curfew however continues in Sopor, Anantnag, Brij Behara, and Baramula towns.

Arson, Attack on Police Reported in Kashmir

BK1201095290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the situation in curfew-bound areas continues to be tense, with more reports of arson. In Sopor town, eight policemen were injured yesterday evening when some miscreants threw petrol bomb on them. Five buildings housing a bank, a school, shops, and municipal sub-office were gutted in different parts of Srinagar city. One holiday home was damaged in a bomb blast in the city. Reports of arson have also come from Pulwama. In Anantnag one residential house and in Shupiyan a school building were set on fire. A panchayat [village council] building was set ablaze in (Nandihal Bandipura).

Meanwhile, the indefinite curfew continues in three towns of Anantnag, Brij Behara, and Sopor. Curfew was reimposed in Tral at 1700 yesterday, whereas in Shupiyan town it was imposed from 0600 this morning. However, curfew was relaxed in Srinagar city for 4 hours from 0500 to 0900 this morning. Curfew has been relaxed in Bandipura town from 0800 to 1500 today. In Baramula town, curfew has been lifted in Civil Lines area from 0700 to 1600.

Iran

Rafsanjani Discusses 5-Year Plan During Prayers

LD1201123890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] On the threshold of the blessed birthday anniversary of the esteemed daughter of the Prophet, the epitome of virtue, piety and truthfulness, Her Holiness Fatimah Zahra [Prophet Muhammad's daughter], peace be on her, and also on the occasion of Women's Day, our Muslim compatriots today throughout the country conducted the politico-religious rites of the Friday prayers. The people of Tehran, meanwhile, with their solid and massive presence at Tehran University and adjacent streets, conducted the politico-religious Friday prayer under the leadership of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

At the ceremonies, in which a large number of the marchers belonging to the Pioneers of Chastity were

present, Hojjat-ol Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in the prayer sermons, referred to the march organized by the Pioneers of Chastity, saying: While in the world the course of social movement is toward lack of hijab [doing away with the veil] and immorality, we see in Islamic Iran our Muslim women organize marches to place emphasis on the need for chastity, as well as to revive the lofty status of Muslim women, and as such, they deplore the corrupt manifestations of Western civilization. Such a movement proves the existence of important achievements for women, thanks to the revolution and Islam.

Referring to the enactment of the government's 5-year plan by the Majlis, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani thanked the Majlis representatives, and specifically expressed appreciation for efforts by Majlis Plan Committee members for their constructive and positive debates—debates which clarified the issues for the people.

Mentioning the fact the said plan was the first 5-year plan following the victory of the Islamic revolution in our country, he said:

[Begin Rafsanjani recording] In this 5-year plan we have important objectives we must accomplish within the next 5 years. If this is accomplished in the next 4-5 years, the economic situation of our country will be different that of today. In our 5-year plan we have planned a gross growth rate at constant prices of 8 percent annually. That is, 5 by 8—in which every year it makes gains as well—which is an acceptable gross growth in all of our sectors—agriculture 6.1 [percent]; industry 14.5; and services, 6.7. We have reduced [the growth rate] for the services sector. Then the mines sector is 19.5, the water, power, and gas 9.1, and construction, 14.5. These are the [planned] growth rates for them. [end recording]

Continuing his sermons, the president of the Republic said: If no abnormal situation develops during the next 5 years, we can achieve those growth rates. The growth in capital investment at annual constant prices is 10.3 percent, which if it can be achieved, would be a good investment. Of that total, 60 percent would be in the private sector and 40 percent in the government sector.

Referring to the issue of borrowing, which has been incorporated in the 5-year plan, the president said: In the plan there will be no commitment regarding to loans. In fact, in the 5-year plan, expenses have been drawn up according to income. In such sectors as petrochemicals, industry, and dam building we have needs outside our means, for which we do not have sufficient foreign exchange. The government therefore has been authorized to make investment through acquiring some kind of possibilities from abroad, which by no means will have the character of borrowing.

Stressing the point the Majlis has authorized the government to sign contracts with foreign companies to establish some industrial units, the president of the Republic said:

Once [these units] arrive at the fruition phase, the government during several years will use the industrial units' income to pay off its debts to the foreign company; provided the industrial unit arrives at fruition. The government otherwise will have no obligation regarding expenses the foreign company has incurred in Iran.

The president added: That is not dependence; dependence is this: that gas, which can be used to make hundreds of kinds of goods, is burning at sea or on land, not only now, but not even for the next 20 years will we be able, on our own, to harness these gases. That is why in the 5-year plan the government has been authorized to spend up to $20 billion in petrochemicals and dam building. Luckily, thanks to the awareness of the Majlis representatives, the plan was enacted. We hope to take long strides through implementation of the plan during the next 4 to 5 years.

Referring to the propaganda of the Iraqi regime, in another part of his sermon, the president of the Republic commented on the demagogic plan of Saddam [Husayn] saying: In Saddam's proposal there is no positive point; there is no reference to withdrawal. The encounter [as heard] with the exchange of POWs up to the year 82—in that year in Khorramshahr we took 25,000 Iraqi POWs, while the Iraqi regime by then had taken prisoner 3,000 ordinary people around Hor, Bostan, and Hoveyseh—is very demagogic. Unfortunately, the Arab broadcasting stations, which usually take racist and nationalistic positions, have resorted to sensationalism. But because of the speedy move by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the plot was defeated. The UN secretary general announced the Saddam proposal was nothing and that our proposal called for full implementation of Resolution No 598 of the Security Council.

Newly Elected Parliament Member Interviewed

NC1201091790 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 8 Jan 90 pp 1,5

[Irfan Parviz report]

[Text] Tehran—A newly elected member of Parliament yesterday said that Iran wants diplomatic relations with all the countries in the world except three.

Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashami, Majlis deputy from the Tehran constituency talking to the TEHRAN TIMES said, "On the basis of the Islamic Republic's priniples we can have relations with all countries except U.S., the Zionist regime of Israel and the racist regime in South Africa."

Mohtashami, former interior minister, was replying to a question on Iran's relations with countries grouped in the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council [(P)GCC] in view of recent changes in the stands of these countries.

He said, "First we should examine the basic objective of the formation of such council or organization.

"If such organizations are formed for protection of the interests of the member countries, then there is no harm and it is acceptable." But he warned that if such organizations are set up to secure the interests of foreign powers or blocs in the region, then relations with the members of such groupings would bring no fruit.

Elaborating he said that before the culmination of the Islamic Revolution, the U.S. pinned all hopes on the monarchial regime in Iran for keeping its interest intact in the region.

"After the downfall of the monarchial regime and establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran there was a vacuum and to fill in this gulf the (P)GCC was banded together," he said.

Referring to the change in the attitude towards Iran of the (P)GCC the Hojjat ol-Eslam said, "If (Iran's) relations with the (P)GCC members can prevent plots and conspiraces of the U.S. and the West, it is very good."

Obviously he was referring to the recent (P)GCC summit meeting held in Oman in which the members expressed their intention for having cordial relations with Iran and for the implementation of the Security Council Resolution 598 for a permanent peace in the region.

The (P)GCC members are the UAE [United Arab Emirates], Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and Saudi Arabia. It was formed just after the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979.

Mohtashami said that for the assumption of diplomatic relations "we should see first our national and revolutionary interests and it is only on the basis of this principle that we can have relations with all countries in the world."

"Naturally, the neighboring countries have special priority for us," he said and underlined the fact that "in any case, the territorial integrity and national interests, along with the revolutionary principles should be preserved."

On ties with the Saudi regime, Mohtashami said, "The future relations with the Riyadh regime should be outlined by the Foreign Ministry."

"But," he said, "the crimes committed by the Saudi regime during the 1987 Hajj ceremonies in which 400 Iranian and other pilgrims were massacred and the recent execution of 16 Kuwaiti Muslims are the facts which bar any Muslim country for having relations with such a foreign-dependent country."

"By committing such crimes, they (Saudi rulers) have shown disrespect to the House of God," he said.

Mohtashami referring to execution of 16 Kuwaiti Muslims said, "Those Muslims were made addicts and then forced to confess what the Saudi television later aired.

"Well, I had talks with those who were arrested along with these 16 Kuwaitis and later released by the Saudi regime. They were in prison along with the 16 Kuwaitis and they confirmed that these Kuwaitis were made addicts by Saudi agents in the prison," he said.

"I saw those Muslims' confession on the television while I was visiting Damascus recently," he said and pointed out that the Jordanian television network had also aired that confession film.

"Those 16 Kuwaiti Muslims were just reading a written statement which the Saudi regime claimed to be confession," he said.

Commenting on the Five-Year Plan of President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's government, Mohtashami said, "Look, there are various aspects to every plan and program so one cannot reject and accept these in full."

Responding to a question Mohtashami said, "I agree with some points in the plan while I oppose some others."

He was commenting on the Five-Year Plan which was approved by the Rafsanjani cabinet on October 8 and sent to the Majlis for final approval. It is believed that the Five-Year Plan has been approved by the Majlis and it was sent to the Council of Guardians of the Constitution for the final seal.

Mohtashami emphasized that more investment should be made in the agricultural sector so that the country may march on the road of a strong and viable economy.

Another sector, he said, which needs more investment is domestic industries which, once boosted, will not only remove the shortage of basic commodities in the country but will also provide more jobs for people.

"I'm against setting up assembly plants which make us dependent on others," he said.

He said due attention should be paid to domestic industries which are fed by raw materials available in the country and "to run them we do not need foreign experts." He singled out handicraft and said efforts should be made for better results in this sector.

Mohtashami, however, said that when the Majlis approves the plan and the Council of Guardians okays it then all in the Majlis and the executive branch of the government are dutybound to support it for implementation.

On transfer of technology from advanced countries, Mohtashami said, "It's okay if we can receive it without risking our independence. [no end quotation mark as published]

But the former minister is not optimistic if advanced countries "will help us in transferring the technology just like that. If the price of advanced technology is our independence then I'm against it."

Mohtashami was elected for the Majlis in the by-elections held last month. When asked which Majlis

commission he will prefer to be a member of he said, "foreign, defense or interior commissions will be my choice."

"Of course there are certain rules and regulations for membership of the Majlis commissions and nothing can be said definitely at this stage," said Mohtashami who also served as ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Syria before becoming interior minister in 1984.

Commenting on the occasional clashes between Amal and Hizballah in Lebanon he said that foreign powers are fanning the flames of these clashes.

Elaborating on his point of view he said that after the sad demise of Imam Khomeyni, the political pundits on the international scene expressed their own views on post-Imam's Iran and post-Imam's Lebanon.

"These pundits got nothing but a great disappointment. They saw that the revolutionary fervor remained the same in Iran and revolutionary activities against Zionists and imperialist powers in Lebanon too remained the same and the Palestinian Intifadah (uprising) in the occupied lands still continued. They, the Zionists and imperialist forces with the help of their 'obedient servants' in the region started hatching plots against these Islamic movements," he said.

He pointed out a series of developments that took place after the June 3, 1989 demise of Imam Khomeyni. He said that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak aired a 10-point plan for the settlement of the Palestine issue while seven-point plan for the Lebanese crisis was also finalized in Saudi Arabia.

"All these plans were made in consultation with the United States," Mohtashami believes.

"In al-Ta'if, Saudi resort city, decisions were taken on Lebanon which meant nothing but to pave the way to give the upper hand to the U.S. and Israeli agents in that Mediterranean country.

"Those who concocted these plans could not achieve their objectives so they started plots against the Islamic movement in Lebanon and Palestine," he stressed.

"I tell you that the enemies of Islam today are fighting against Iran and its Islamic Revolution outside the Iranian borders and these avowed enemies want to harm Iran from abroad," Mohtashami said.

Commenting on the recent rapprochement between Syria and Egypt he said, "It will have no negative impact on Tehran-Damascus relations."

"The strategy of Iran-Syrian relations is a common front against Israel and as long as this common strategy exists the two countries' relations will continue," he said.

On the Western hostages in Lebanon Mohtashami said, "Well, it's an internal matter of Lebanon."

"In my point of view," he said, "Lebanese Sunnis, Shiites, Druze and Christians are the hostages of the U.S., Israel and other Western powers.

"So it's their (Lebanese) natural rights to take hostage to inflict heavy blows on their enemies," Mohtashami said.

"No negotiations but force is the answer to what the enemies of the Lebanese have done against that deprived nation," he said.

Concerning jailed Lebanese Anis Naqqash in France Mohtashami said, "France never fulfills its commitment in this respect."

Mohtashami is one of founding members of the Majma'-e Ruhaniyat-e [as published] Mobaraz or the Combatant 'Ulema Society.

On the leadership of the Islamic Republic he said "The Combatant 'Ulema Society has always taken a very strong stance in supporting Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i—both inside and outside the country. [no end quotation marks as published]

Public Prosecutor on Confronting Criticism

NC1201073990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] The public prosecutor has said criticism seeking to plot against and weaken the Velayat-e Faqih [vice regency of the jurisconsult] and the country's system is contrary to Islam. He added people who resort to such acts will be confronted.

IRNA reports Mr Reyshahri, who was speaking in Esfahan, cited from verses in the holy Koran and from the narratives of the immaculate imams, peace be upon them, and distinguished among three kinds of criticism of officials. He said if criticism aims at positive results, then all Muslims should resort to it. If criticism is directed at finding fault with both officials and others, then it is not permissible. Criticism aimed at plotting against or weakening the leadership and the system is not permitted by Islam and will be confronted.

Mr Reyshahri added: At a time when the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has initiated a series of economic programs and is seeking to rectify the disorderly economic situation in the country, various people are, either knowingly or unknowingly, raising false issues and thereby helping the enemy and providing material for the foreign mass media.

In conclusion, the public prosecutor and the public prosecutor of the special clerical court referred to the recent message by the leader of the Islamic revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, and reiterated that no one will be allowed to plot against and weaken the system, the Velayat-e Faqih, or the leadership.

Reportage on Soviet-Iranian Border Situation

'Taking Advantage' Rejected

NC1201094690 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 8 Jan 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Iran Will Not Take Advantage of Domestic Soviet Problems"]

[Text] Soviet Azerbaijan is still immersed in tension and unrest. In recent years the republic has always been a focal point as far as ethnic crises are concerned in the USSR.

But the recent crisis is taking on much vaster dimensions and the problem emerging out of or fueling the situation are quite different from former problems of Azerbaijan such as the Nagorno-Karabakh issue.

This time demonstrations and popular marches are directed towards southern territories, the Iranian Azarbayjan Province.

Meanwhile the Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American Affairs Mahmud Va'ezi has arrived in Moscow to help settle the related problems, and explain the Iranian stand.

What is of prime significance at the moment is whether the two capitals will regard the Azerbaijan problem an internal one or one of common and regional features.

One thing however is certain. The growth of a rather extremist nationalism calling for the demolition of borders between the two Azerbaijans will not, under the present circumstances, serve the best interests of the two nations which now have forged cordial ties.

Iran on her part, however, has no penchant for taking advantage of the USSR's domestic problems and the pressures mounting on Moscow by ethnic crises especially in its southern republics. Iran is no political opportunist; neither is it after a change in the present border lines between the two countries.

The Kremlin can rest assured that the Islamic Republic of Iran will never align itself with those who advocate Zbigniew Brzezinski's theory calling for disintegration of the Soviet empire. Iran's approach to the USSR in this sensitive time will not at all be similar to some regional nations' treatment of the Ottoman empire of the late 19th century.

But Iran, of course, has a very keen interest in seeing an improvement in the situation of Soviet Muslims and the lifting of restrictions and discriminations imposed on them for the last several decades.

In the Iranian mind-set, the framework for all such improvements will have to be respect for one another's national sovereignty and peaceful coexistence.

The sensitivity of this juncture in time however calls on the Soviet leadership to handle the siutation with utmost care. Some observers here believe certain regional countries might be trying to take advantage of the present situation in Azerbaijan to fish in troubled waters.

Amidst this it seems only logical that Iran and the USSR can be in constant touch. High ranking official visits at the level of foreign ministers and above might greatly help alleviate the problem.

Azerbayjan Governor Comments

NC1201081890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Telephone report by unidentified correspondent in Tabriz]

[Text] With the creation of favorable conditions for tourist exchanges between Iran and the Soviet Union, tourists from the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Soviet Union are to begin making trips next month.

This was stated by the East Azerbayjan governor general, who said Iran and the Soviet Union have agreed to these visits. He added that East Azerbayjan Province is ready to host the Muslims of Soviet Azerbaijan.

Speaking about the expansion of relations between Iran and the Soviet Union, the East Azerbayjan governor general said: President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to the Soviet Union laid the foundations for expansion of relations between the two countries. Based on a cabinet decision on border trade, border barter trade between East Azerbayjan and the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic soon will begin.

This is the Central News Unit correspondent in Tabriz.

Newspaper Comments

NC1101202690 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 4 Jan 90 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "Gorbachev and the Muslim Republics"]

[Text] In continuing the group demonstrations by the residents of the Muslim Republic of Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR] during the past few days, the Muslim people of this area shouted the Islamic slogan, God is great, and slogans about the unity of Muslims. Our compatriots living in the border region also responded to these sentiments by shouting Islamic slogans.

Despite the extreme cold and rain, a large number of people living in the border areas—men and women, old and young—participated in these demonstrations and crossed the border barricades to the other side of the Aras River.

It was at that time the birthplace of the famous Iranian man of letters, Nizami Ganjehvi, reverted to its former

name of Ganjeh. According to news agencies, demonstrations by the Azerbaijanis have assumed wider dimensions, and the border areas every day are venues of large gatherings.

After years of duress and pressure and of enduring the egocentricity of their party officials, the people of Azerbaijan have just gained this opportunity to breathe the air that brings the dawn of independence. It is natural the tribes and nations inside the USSR should desire what has occurred in Eastern Europe.

The 70-year-experience of the CPSU has proved the Communist Party never has had a popular base, especially in the Muslim-inhabited republics. Now that the dark clouds are lifting after many years, the brilliance of the sun of Islam is illuminating the entire area.

Despite the previous false propaganda, the extensive nature and the solidarity of these tribes in their desire for Islam can be perceived.

A response to the rightful demands of the people of Azerbaijan and, similarly, of the various other Muslim republics in the future will be the criterion for believing in perestroika and glasnost, which will embroil the Soviet Government in a test more severe than that which occurred in Eastern Europe.

The Muslims of the world, especially the shiites of the region, soon will gauge the level of goodwill of the Kremlin chiefs in their claims of love for peace and freedom.

The crumbling of the artificial walls cannot be confined to Europe. There are other walls as well which should be removed from our midst.

Editorial on Saddam Husayn's Proposals

NC1201105390 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 7 Jan 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Return to Borders Lynchpin to Iran-Iraq Peace"]

[Text] Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has apparently come up with certain peace overtures in a speech he made on the occasion of that country's Army Day yesterday.

His proposals do include novel points that might have an impact on the peace and security on this part of the world.

Husayn, however, could also be criticized for his choice of the occasion for airing the proposals. From his choice of the Army Day for the occasion it might be drawn that he is still concerned with launching another wave of psy-war and propaganda which we hope he is not.

The Iraqi president has called for a direct face-to-face talks between the two countries. A positive proposal indeed. But what will be the framework for such negotiations? The most logical mind-set for such talks will have to be the United Nations' Resolution 598 and Secretary General Perez de Cuellar's implementation plan if the two countries are not to get themselves involved in labyrinths of fruitless talks.

Saddam has also batted for the exchange of all sick and disabled POWs and those captured between 1980-82, the first two years of the war.

This will have to be compared with Iran's earlier proposal of simultaneous release of all POWs and the return of the two countries' forces to the internationally recognized borders.

For a fact and from a humanitarian stand, Iran's proposal is head and shoulder above the Iraqi suggestion. Why should there be a difference between a man held in captivity for seven years and another held for eight years? Why not go for the freeing of all POWs but synchronize it with the pullout to international borders?

It seems the Iraqi president has come up with this proposal only out of the factual consideration that Iran captured a lot more enemy soldiers than Iraq did in those years (1980-82).

The suggestion for the release of all sick and disabled POWs too has nothing new and is but a repetition of Iranian proposal to free all of them at once and unconditionally. Iran has already freed a number of sick and disabled Iraqi POWs, at times unilaterally, on several occasions.

But the Iraqi president's suggestion to allow to visit [as published] religious sites in the two countries is welcome provided that actual steps are taken to materialize it. In fact such a development will be a natural outcome of peace when achieved through the implementation of Resolution 598.

In short, Saddam Husayn's peace overtures, positive in some aspects though, still lack certain points.

To back up his words the Iraqi president should show more sincerity. As a first step and in respect for international rights, he can immediately withdraw his forces to internationally recognized borders.

This retreat is the lynchpin to security and will pave the way for a lasting and mutually beneficial peace between the two neighboring countries.

Commentary Views Afghan Political Situation

LD1101134790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1106 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Unattributed political commentary]

[Excerpts] Dear listeners: The nine-party coalition and developments in Afghanistan is the title of our first political commentary for today. Please pay attention:

Yesterday, the spokesman of the nine-party coalition council of Afghanistan rejected staging elections in that country under present circumstances. The spokesmen, while emphasizing the broad-based nature of the elections, said: Since the conditions for conducting elections in cities under occupation by the Kabul regime are not there, the results of potential elections would not reflect the wishes of the Afghan Muslim people. [passage omitted]

Since the representatives of the nine-party coalition of Afghanistan are in conducting talks with the seven-party coalition in Peshawar to draw their viewpoints closer, it seems the opportunity for achieving a broad-based unity inside Afghanistan may be available to the Afghan mujahiddin, because, according to the spokesman of that council, no change can take place inside Afghanistan without the true presence of the people of that country. For this reason, and bearing in mind the plan for staging of one-sided elections and the existing difficulties blocking the solidarity of the Afghan mujahiddin, it appears forming the new government many not be feasible.

The rejection of elections under the auspices of the UN by the [nine-party] coalition council, in this respect, is worthy of assessment and evaluation. This stance has been expressed under conditions when world powers, especially the United States, are endeavoring to conspire and impose their own favored regime on the people of Afghanistan. From this standpoint, we can see any movement which may grant legitimacy to the Kabul regime is not accepted by the Afghan mujahiddin. This is at a time when, following withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan, resulting from defeat of the Soviet Union's 9-year politico-military strategy in that country, Moscow now is now trying—benefitting from the continuing rule of the communist regime of Kabul, which has become possible through Western political propaganda—to make up for this defeat in the political arena.

According to politically-informed sources, the continuation of Soviet financial and arms support for the Kabul regime, which, according to the latest reports received, have been strengthened lately by a substantial consignment of arms, including missile launchers, tanks and armored vehicles, and Scud surface-to-surface missiles, has led to the Muslim people not fully-achieving the right to self-determination based on the formation of an Islamic and nonaligned government, which will have friendly relations with all its neighbors. This matter—that is, the preservation of the Islamic and historical status of Afghanistan, and the establishment of nonaligned government in that country—is really what was emphasized during Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani's historic trip to Moscow by the presidents of Iran and the Soviet Union.

It is important to repeat that the Muslim people of Afghanistan are the true masters of the case, and their long standing struggle for freedom, independence, and the establishment of Islamic sovereignty in their country shows they do have the necessary experience to take their country's fate in their own hands. There is no doubt the Afghan mujahiddin and all the Muslim people of Afghanistan, in keeping with their past 10 years of struggle, will not permit history to repeat itself by allowing themselves to be dominated, in any form, by foreign powers.

The Afghan mujahiddin, as the representatives of the oppressed and suffering people of Afghanistan, now can enjoy the benefits the historical opportunity of the disintegration of capitalist and communist systems all over the world have brought to their need for all-round unity. It is natural nations which have not—at certain points in history—been able to overcome the discords created by world powers, have not, at the same time, been able to establish an independent political sovereignty for the future management of their country, by ending the influence of foreign agents.

Vanguards of Chastity Rally To Defend Values

LD1201141390 Tehran IRNA in English 1205 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 12, IRNA—Thousands of committed Muslim women, braving freezing temperatures rallied in the capital's streets today, to announce their all-out support for a serious campaign against any sort of corruption or improper form of hijab (Islamic dress code).

The "Vanguards of Chastity" march, organised by the women's Society of the Islamic Republic, started from three major public squares and gathering momentum along the route, converged upon Tehran University campus in time for the Friday prayer, led this week by the President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

The demonstrators voiced support for the leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, and condemned improper hijab worn by some elements of the society.

"Death to America" thundered the rally, made up of women from various walks of life including several Muslim women from other countries residing in the Islamic Republic.

The daughters of the revolution vowed to safeguard the values and principles of Islam, and pledged action against moral decadence which they said, is trying to creep back into Iran's Muslim society in the guise of "arts and culture."

Of late the radio and television and some segments of the press have come under increasing criticism for depicting cultural attitudes considered derogatory for a healthy society.

The rally ended at Tehran University campus, where a 9-point resolution was read, denouncing the cultural conspiracies of global arrogance aimed at spreading corruption.

"Iran's Muslim women reiterate allegiance to Ayatollah Khamene'i, and stress obedience to the leader's guidelines," it read.

The resolution announced support for the government of President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and demanded that officials should counter the "corrupt culture of the West."

Authorities were also asked to provide facilities for active participation of Iran's Muslim women in political, social and cultural spheres during the post-war reconstruction era.

The resolution called on Iranian women to promote their birthright "the dynamic culture of Islam" and avoid the vain luxurious mode of life.

The Vanguards of Chastity asked the Islamic Republic of Iran broadcasting (IRIB) to focus on and propagate Islamic values in its programs, and to be on guard against cultural plots.

Interviewed by IRNA, an American Muslim woman attending the rally, flayed both the West and the East for their belittling of spiritual values, and denying women their freedom by reducing the fair sex to glamour doll.

Somayyeh Abu-Saeedi [name as received], a graduate in midwifery from America, said although the U.S. has gained considerable success in technology, it has "miserably failed on spiritual grounds."

She referred to the Islamic Republic as a "government safeguarding the noble values of women."

Muslim women from other countries who participated in the march, issued a statement announcing support for Islamic hijab for their Muslim sisters throughout the globe.

They also backed the campaign to mop up traces of infidelity in the Islamic Republic, and referred to improper hijab and corrupt values of the West as ominious signs.

"Muslim women should not permit Western culture which brings nothing but abjectness, to spread in Muslim societies," they said.

Just the other day, said a woman, "I was shocked by an article in an English daily which referring to the so-called cultural revival in Iran, was expressing delight that values frowned upon until a few months back were gradually staging a comeback."

The statement reiterated that the use of words like "fredoom" and "equality" for women in the West, was nothing but deceit to promote a sick society of animal permissiveness.

Pakistan

Bhutto Condemns Kabul for Missile Firing

BK1101160190 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has strongly condemned the cowardly puppet Afghan regime for firing a missile onto Pakistani soil yesterday. The prime minister said that the government will formally lodge a protest with the Afghan charge d'affaires for this aggressive act and will also alert the Soviet ambassador in Pakistan of this incident.

She said that the terrorist act has exposed the reality of the Afghanistan administration and revealed the nefarious designs of the puppet regime. The prime minister added that Pakistan has warned the Kabul administration that the responsibility for serious consequences resulting from any recurrence of such an act will lie entirely with the Kabul regime. The prime minister thanked God that the dastardly act did not result in any loss of life.

It may be recalled that the missile, which exploded in a field near Hasan village near Hasan Abdal area yesterday, left a ditch 30 feet deep and 50 feet wide.

President on Indian Naval Buildup, Assurances

BK1201074490 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Excerpt] The 52d midshipman commissioning parade of the Pakistan Naval Academy was held in Karachi today. Addressing the parade, President Ghulam Ishaq Khan reiterated that Pakistan is a peace-loving nation with no expansionist designs, and wishes to live in peace and honor within secured borders. The president, however, added that in view of Pakistan's economic and political importance, a strong naval force is indispensable for this country, which attaches great importance to peace and security in the Indian Ocean region and has been consistently putting forward proposals at international forums and organizations to promote this objective. The littoral states are concerned over the increasing strength of the Indian Navy, which is already the eighth biggest naval force in the world. The number of countries which think that the Indian naval buildup is designed to display India's might well beyond its frontiers is now increasing.

The president welcomed recent statements of Indian Prime Minister V.P.Singh, in which he had stated that his government would remove the misgivings that India is trying to establish its hegemony in the region. Ghulam Ishaq Khan expressed the hope that this will be a forerunner to India ending its military and naval expansion and will help in making the Indian Ocean a zone of peace. To achieve this objective, it is also imperative for the countries of the region to take collective steps toward strengthening peace and security in the region. These

steps include declaring a nuclear-weapon-free zone, especially in the Indian Ocean region, and devising a consensus procedure for peaceful resolution of bilateral disputes, the president observed.

President Ghulam Ishaq Khan called upon the commissioning midshipmen to keep themselves abreast of the latest advances in the art of defense and weapons technology. [passage omitted]

Khan Comments on Center-Provincial Differences

BK1201065490 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has expressed the confidence that differences between the federal and provincial governments would soon be amicably sorted out and things would settle down in the larger national interest. Talking to newsmen in Karachi today, he said he was trying his best to build up better understanding between the two; it is necessary for the country's development and consolidation of the democratic process.

To a question, the president said so far he had been talking to them separately and he was hopeful that a time would come soon when both would sit together to sort out their differences and arrive at some consensus.

About midterm elections, the president said it is up to the nation and politicians. He had nothing to do with this issue.

'Concern' Over French Embassy Reopening in Kabul

BK1101154590 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] Pakistan has expressed concern over reopening the French Embassy in Kabul. A foreign office spokesman said in Islamabad today that Pakistan has informed the French Government of its concern. He said Pakistan has suggested that France delay its decision to reopen the embassy until an appropriate time. Pakistan would prefer that France open its embassy when a representative Afghan government is established in Kabul.

Report on Foreign Minister's Resignation Denied

BK1101122390 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 11 Jan 90 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, Jan. 10—A spokesman of the Foreign Office Wednesday described as inaccurate and without foundation the report appearing in a section of the press regarding resignations of the Foreign Minister and the adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs and National Security.

Contradicting the news item, he said that there was absolutely no truth in the news. Had the newspapers taken the trouble to consult with the Foreign Ministry before publishing the report, they would have been informed of the correct position and been saved from printing a concocted and patently false story which carries tendentious inferences.

Bhutto Envoy Frustrated Over Indian Media

BK1101162990 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] Abdul Sattar, the prime minister's special envoy, called on Indian External Affairs Secretary S.K. Singh in New Delhi this afternoon and expressed frustration over the way the Indian media projected his talks with Indian leaders. A Pakistani High Commission spokesman told newsmen that the Indian media deliberately presented Abdul Sattar's talks with Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh, External Affairs Minister Gujral, and the external affairs secretary in an incorrect and distorted manner. He said that the special envoy was entrusted only with the mission of ascertaining at least the immediate priorities of Indian foreign policy from the Indian leaders and see what attitude the new Indian Government intends to adopt with India's neighbors, especially Pakistan.

Giving details of the extremely useful, positive, and constructive talks held by Abdul Sattar with the Indian leaders, the spokesman expressed regret that the Indian media exaggerated the facts and painted an incorrect picture while reporting on India's conveying concern to Pakistan on Kashmir. This thereby created an impression that Pakistan has been humiliated. The spokesman emphasized that Indian media reports that India has warned Pakistan about the situation in the occupied Kashmir situation are totally incorrect.

The spokesman said that the atmosphere was very cordial and friendly during the talks both with the Indian prime minister and the external affairs minister, and they were very useful and constructive. He said that India's concern over Kashmir will not affect the positive aspect of the talks and the message of cordiality which Sattar is carrying with him to Pakistan.

Economy Registered 5.1-Percent Growth in 1989

BK1101101190 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 0300 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] Pakistan's economy registered a growth rate of 5.1 percent in GNP [Gross National Product] during the last fiscal year despite devastations caused by floods, particularly in Punjab. It also maintained a growth momentum with exports rising over 5.3 percent. This was stated in the annual report of the State Bank released in Karachi.

It said the agricultural production increased by 6.1 percent, while industrial production registered a growth rate of over 3 percent. The report says the present government has placed great emphasis on the need for greater private sector participation into development of the economy. During the year, gross fixed investment in the private sector increased by a record 19.6 percent. This was the first time since 1972-73 that private fixed

investment exceeded those of the public sector. The share of private sector in total investment in the large-scale manufacturing sector increased from 84.3 percent in 1987-88 to over 86 percent last year.

200 Kilos of Heroin Seized; Drug Ring Smashed

BK1201010490 Hong Kong AFP in English 2011 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] Lahore, Pakistan, Jan 11 (AFP)—Pakistani police have smashed an international drug smuggling ring with the seizure of 200 kilogrammes (440 pounds) of heroin in this city bordering India, a top officer said Thursday [11 January].

Lahore city police chief, Israr Ahmad, told a news conference here that "a special police team kept a strict watch on the activities of these notorious drug smugglers" for two months to obtain "concrete proof" against them.

After receiving a tip that drug smugglers would bring the heroin from Pakistan's North West Frontier Province, bordering Afghanistan, the team blocked a road and arrested seven people, he said. They recovered 200 kilogrammes of heroin from cavities of the vehicles.

The smugglers had also established a chemical factory in Lahore where "heroin and other dangerous drugs were being processed and supplied to India and European countries on a large scale," Mr. Ahmad said.

"It is a great achievement of the police to track down such well-established drug smugglers and put them behind the bars, rejecting heavy bribes offered to the special police team comprising young officers," the police chief said.

According to official figures released here, more than a ton of heroin, 46 tons of hashish and over a ton of opium were in [as received] the past year. Since assuming power 13 months ago, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has vowed to wage a war against narcotics in Pakistan. Most of the drug passing through Pakistan comes from Afghanistan, according to officials here.

Sri Lanka

Wijeratne Comments on Indian Troop Pullout Talks

BK1201064890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0629 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] Colombo, Jan 12 (AFP)—Sri Lanka is pushing for a total withdrawal of Indian troops from the island republic by January 31, two months ahead of a deadline set by New Delhi, Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne said here Friday [12 January].

Colombo was anxious to see the last Indian soldier leaving by the end of January for the government to celebrate the 41st anniversary of independence from Britain on February 4 "without foreign soldiers," he said.

Mr. Wijeratne said Colombo's intention was conveyed to Indian Premier Vishwanath Pratap Singh and Indian External Affairs Minister Inder Kumar Gujral during his visit to New Delhi last week.

"They assured us that the deadline will be March 31 and not April 1. (But) Mr. Gujral undertook to look at our request personally and see if it is possible earlier than March 31," the minister said.

Mr. Wijeratne flew to New Delhi last Thursday for talks with the Indian leadership after a December 31 deadline set by former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to take back the troops passed without results.

"I expressed my displeasure that an agreement has not been honoured. Mr. Rajiv Gandhi himself had confirmed the agreement at a public meeting in Bangalore and I told this to Mr. Gujral.

"He said Gandhi can talk like that now. Because he could not have considered the logistical problems and he (Mr. Gujral) had inherited the problem from Mr. Gandhi," he said.

Mr. Wijeratne said Colombo had offered to charter vessels to ferry Indian troops back home if New Delhi found it difficult to provide ships to take back the soldiers, estimated to number between 25,000 to 30,000.

However, India had said that ships were not the problem but the availability of the only jetty in the island's northeast which is also used for unloading vital food cargoes.

"We left it in the hands of the prime minister and the external affairs minister to see if they can speed up the withdrawal," Mr. Wijeratne said at the weekly cabinet press briefing.

He said both sides were concerned about internecine clashes between rival Tamil groups in areas recently vacated by Indian troops in the north east and were exploring ways to bring about a ceasefire.

"We are talking to all militant groups. Mere appeals won't do. We want a positive response. So we have to do a lot of background work," Mr. Wijeratne said.

He said Colombo had been almost daily trying to persuade the dominant Tamil guerrilla group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), to stop fighting but the response has been "very slow."

The minister said he appreciated efforts of the chief minister of southern India's Tamil Nadu State, Muthuvel Karunanidhi, to end fighting between Tamil groups in Sri Lanka's northeast, where the country's minority Tamils are concentrated.

"Mr. Karunanidhi appears to be a person capable of reconciling the Tamil groups," Mr. Wijeratne said, adding that Colombo should have good relations with south India, separated from Sri Lanka by a 20-mile (32 kilometre) strip of sea.

The minister said both Colombo and the new Indian leadership were keen to improve bilateral relations.

"We have to have a change of heart and bear in mind the compulsions on both sides and growing understanding of each other's problems. Both countries had vexed ethnic problems. But with sound political leadership these could be resolved," he added.

He said an Indo-Sri lanka economic commission would be meeting soon in Colombo to consider improving bilateral trade.

Relations between Colombo and New Delhi hit rock bottom over the presence of Indian troops, deployed in July 1987 under an accord between the previous governments of both countries which sought to end a bloody Tamil separatist campaign.

Foreign Minister on Indian Troop Pullout Deadline

BK1201103690 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0853 GMT 12 Jan 90

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 12 Jan (LANKAPUVATH)—Sri Lankan Foreign Minister and Minister of State for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne announced at his weekly cabinet news briefing today that the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] will be withdrawn from Sri Lanka by the 31st of March.

He said there was better understanding between Sri Lanka and India now and that both countries were concerned at the fighting going on in Sri Lanka between militant groups. Both governments were working out methods to stop the fighting between the rival Tamil groups and bring about an amicable settlement.

Mr Wijeratne said that India had taken into consideration submissions made by her officials, especially the Army about the logistical problem confronting them before they decided on the March 31st date for the complete deinduction of Indian troops from Sri Lanka.

Indian External Affairs Minister I.K. Gujral had personally assured him that he will do his utmost to complete the withdrawal of the IPKF before the given date of 31 March.

We had asked for an earlier date of withdrawal of Indian troops as we hoped to celebrate Independence Day without foreign troops on our soil.

"We have left it in the hands of the Indian prime minister and External Affairs Minister Gujral to see if they can speed up the withdrawal," Mr Wijeratne said.

He said the atmosphere was very good and there was better understanding now between the two countries.

We discussed matters with mutual understanding and a degree of trust. The new government of India is keen to establish good neighbourly relations. Their giving priority to this over all other problems show their bona fides. We must respond to that and build up our relations with India and take positive action to improve the lot of our people.

Mr Wijeratne said that economic aspects were also discussed and the Indo-Sri Lanka economic commission will be meeting soon to coordinate and effect action.

The new Indian leadership was keen to improve bilateral relations with Sri Lanka. We have to have a change in heart and bear in mind the compulsions on both sides and growing understanding of each other's problems. Both countries had vexed ethnic problems, but with sound political leadership, these could be resolved, Mr Wijeratne said.

He said that there had also been a decision on exchanges of parliamentary delegations between Sri Lanka and India.

The Sri Lankan foreign minister and minister of state for defence said that he appreciated the efforts of the chief minister of the South Indian Tamil Nadu state, M. Karunanidhi, to end fighting between Tamil groups in Sri Lanka.

Mr Karunanidhi appeared to be a person capable of reconciling the Tamil groups.

Mr Wijeratne said he hoped to hold more talks with Mr Karunanidhi.

He said Colombo should have sound relations with South India, separated from Sri Lanka by only a 20 mile [32 km] stetch of sea.

Associated with Mr Wijeratne at the news briefing were Minister of Lands, Irrigation and Mahaweli Development P. Dayaratne; Minister of State for Information A.J. Ranasinghe; Minister of State for Policy Planning and Implementation Dr Wimal Wickramasinghe; Secretary, Ministry of Defence Sepala Attygalle and Presidential Advisor on International Affairs Bradman Weerakoon.

Opposition Charges Government With Corruption

BK1201004890 Hong Kong AFP in English 2042 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] Colombo, Jan 11 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's main opposition parties Thursday [11 January] moved a no confidence motion against the government saying it was responsible for corruption in "high places" leading to unrest in the country. The motion was sponsored by four out of the five opposition parties in Parliament and is

unlikely to be approved as the ruling United National Party (UNP) has 125 seats in the 225-member assembly.

Opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) MP [member of Parliament], C.V. Gunaratne, told Parliament that a petroleum deal involving the South Korean trading house Daewoo Corporation was worse than the "Bofors scandal."

"We have out-Bofored Bofors," he said referring to an arms scandal in neighbouring India where politicians allegedly received kickbacks from the Swedish company Bofors.

Mr. Gunaratne said the official Ceylon Petroleum Corporation had purchased 750,000 tonnes of crude oil from Daewoo on "highly unfavourable terms." The MP demanded the name of the company's local agent.

There was no immediate reaction from Daewoo which maintains a liaison office here.

"There will be an escalation of unrest as long as there is corruption in high places... God save our country," Mr. Gunaratne said, speaking in the no confidence debate which is due to go on till Friday.

Opposition MP's called for a revival of a scrapped special presidential commission to inquire into corruption charges.

State Minister for Public Administration Chandra Bandara said the opposition move was aimed at destabilising the country but was confident that it would not succeed.

The opposition motion charges the government with encouraging paramilitary organisations, failure to contain rising cost of living and discrimination against politicial opponents.

Political analysts here say that the debate would only give the opposition some publicity mileage and that the government had consolidated its position after wiping out the top leadership of a Sinhalese rebel group.

The key leaders of the JVP, or People's Liberation Front, were killed in mid-November and since then, there has been a marked drop in the scale of politically motivated violence in the country, officials said.

EROS Leaders Discuss Tamil Issue in Madras

BK1201044290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] The Tamil Nadu chief minister, Mr Karunanidhi, held a second round of talks in Madras yesterday with the EROS [Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students] delegation on the issue of Sri Lankan Tamils. The EROS leaders—Mr V. Balakumar and Mr Mullaikalan—participated.

Eelam People's Democratic Party has urged India to formulate a common program acceptable to various Sri Lankan Tamil groups to end internecine fighting. It suggested that any noncooperative group should be declared antidemocratic.

Meanwhile, another contingent of PKF [Peacekeeping Force] returned to Madras from Sri Lanka.

Further on Killing of EPRLF Official by LTTE

BK1101090690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] The chief whip of the ruling Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front, EPRLF, in Sri Lanka's Northeastern Provincial Council, Mr George, and four others were killed in an ambush by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] at Trincomalee yesterday.

The chief minister of the province, Mr Varadaja Perumal, who was visibly moved by the killings said in Madras that he will have talks with all the leaders, including the prime minister and the opposition leader, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, on the situation in Sri Lanka.

Prime Minister Receives Iranian Charge

LD0501223590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 5 Jan 90

[Text] Our country's charge d'affaires in Sri Lanka on Firday met Prime Minister Wijetunge in Colombo and conducted talks with him.

According to a Central News Unit report, the prime minister, referring to the achievements of the Islamic Republic after the revolution, said: Prior to my visit to Iran, I did not have such a picture of Iran; but now I know, regarding the difficulties and heavy burden of war your country faced, you have completed major tasks.

At the same meeting, meanwhile, Mr Wijetunge called for an increase in the sale of Iranian crude oil to Sri Landa over and above the levels agreed in the joint commission of the two countries.

Ethnic Proportion-Based Job System Adopted

BK1001095790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] The Sri Lankan Government has announced that all employment in the country will be on the basis of ethnic proportion hereafter. A statement from the presidential secretariat in Colombo said the majority Sinhalese will get 74 percent of jobs, Tamils 12.5 percent, Tamils of Indian origin 5.5 percent, and Muslims 8 percent.

Further on Job System

BK1001122790 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Excerpt] President R. Premadasa says the government has taken a firm decision that the grant of employment should be done on the basis of the ethnic proportion. Addressing the government parliamentary group meeting this week, the president said that this was the policy stipulated in the election manifesto on which the United National Party received two mandates—at the presidential elections as well as the general elections. The government, he said, was therefore committed to follow this policy.

The president said that a cabinet subcommittee which looked into the matter has recommended the procedure to be followed. Instructions on these lines will be issued shortly by the Ministry of Public Administration, Provincial Council and Home Affairs. Until such time they (?circulate instruction), the ministry should instruct their secretaries on the decision.

Mr Premadasa said that employment at the national level should be on the national ethnic proportion, employment at provincial level on the provincial ethnic proportion, and at the district level on the district ethnic proportion. However, all employments would strictly be on qualifications and merit as stipulated for a particular job and not on political considerations.

The composition of the ethnic ratio has been worked out on the basis that Sinhalese comprise 74 percent, Tamils 12.1 [as heard] percent, Tamils of Indian origin 5.5 percent, Muslims 8 percent. The composition of 1 percent of other (?services) has been recommended to be added onto the Sinhalese ratio. [sentence as heard] On this basis, three-fourths of employments would be the Sinhalese and the balance one-fourth among Tamils and Muslims. He said it would be difficult to give proportion on an ethnic ratio basis on a grade-to-grade basis. It could be possible on a post-to-post basis. [passage omitted]